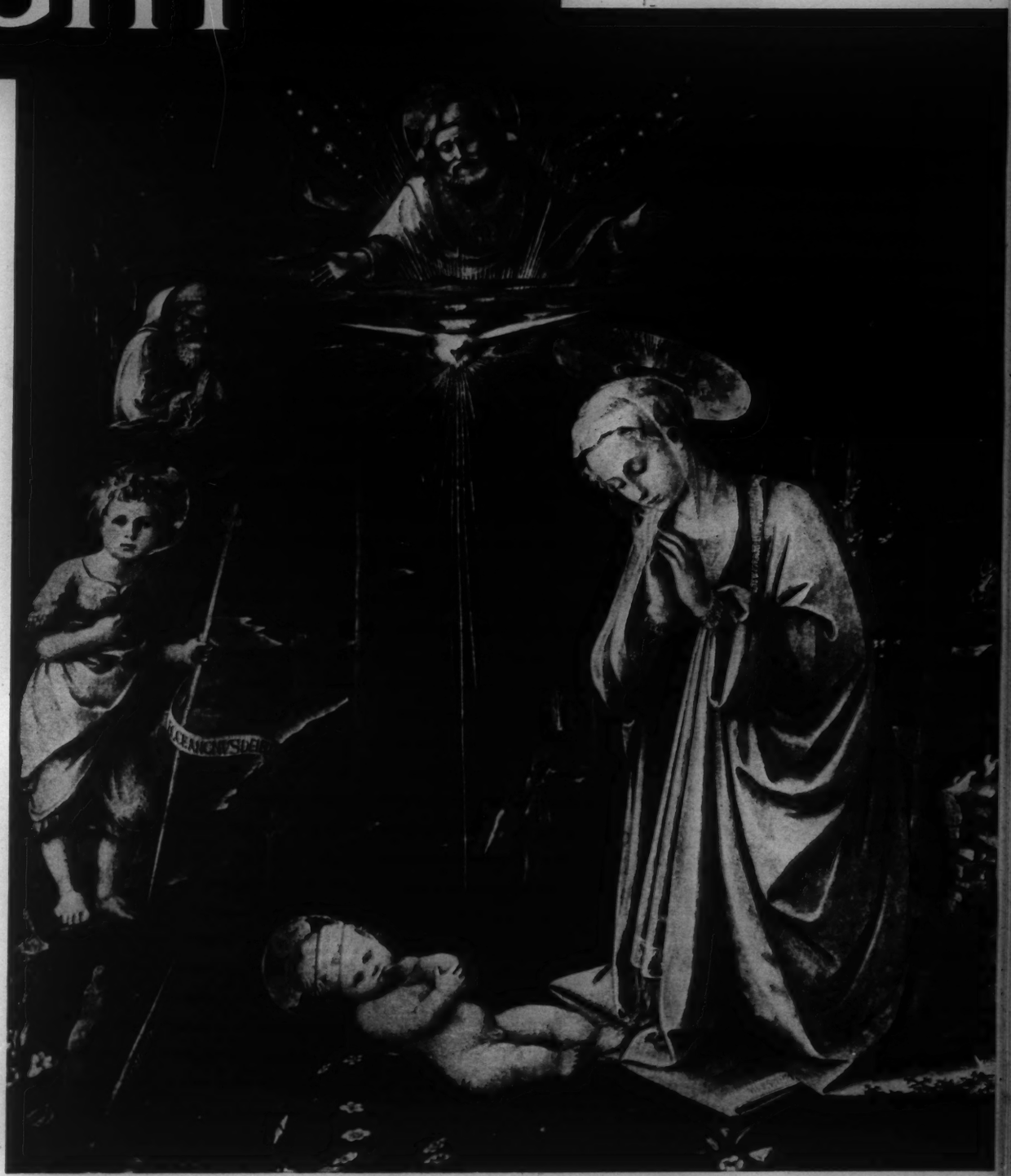
SATURDAY NIGHT

DECEMBER 27, 1949



THE NATIVITY: *Virgin Adoring the Child (Fra Filippo Lippi, 1406-1469).*

AN ARENA WHERE LEADERS CLASH

by Wilfrid Eggleston

10¢

Christus Natus Est • J. D. L. Howson

B.C.'s "Madam Speaker" • J. K. Nesbitt

Canadian Transportation Crisis • R. N. Beattie

The year was 1847 ...

. . . Malcolm McRae was beaten into unconsciousness, left in a ditch to die. He was a voter in the Third District, Prince Edward Island who had, the previous year, voted against certain members who were later unseated on charges of intimidation and violence.

Now a new election was called—but Malcolm McRae was warned *not to vote*. In those days he was not protected by the secret ballot—yet Malcolm McRae determined to set out for the polls, risking his life for the right to vote.

Today, because of the courage of men like Malcolm McRae, you run no risk at all in your free, unhampered exercise of the franchise.

When YOU cast your secret ballot at every election—municipal, provincial, federal—you exercise a duty and privilege planned, worked and fought for by your forefathers. Your vote protects the future of your children. To fail in this duty is to be less than a good citizen.

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP BY

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Waterfront of the Town of York (now Toronto) in 1832.
Gooderham & Worts Mill in foreground.

The DOMINION of CANADA General INSURANCE COMPANY
LIFE - FIRE CASUALTY

In each issue—
SATURDAY NIGHT
★ 28 Departments
★ Editorials
★ Byline Writers
★ News Round-up

by and large

■ Gazing at a display of jewellery, a Welland, Ont., man decided to enter the store. This he did, the trouble being that the door was a glass one and he walked right through it.

■ Santa Claus made seven bombing runs over Minnedosa, Man., last week in an RCAF helicopter, using oranges and bags of candy for bombs. He was almost mobbed when he stepped down and had to be rescued by three Mounties in order to take part in the parade.

■ A 17-year-old Rosemount, Que. lad walked into a jewellery store with a toy pistol in his hand. Proprietor Armand Dufour thought it was a hold-up so he drew a revolver and fired two shots into the floor. Hearing the shots, Sgt. R. Moretti who was passing rushed in to investigate. He "disarmed" the boy and at that moment Criminal Court Judge Irenée Lagarde entered the shop. The youth tearfully said he only wanted the pistol repaired. He was released but his pistol was confiscated.

■ At Sudbury, Ont., a youth walked into a store, stuck a toy pistol into the ribs of an almost blind merchant and said "This is a stick-up." But Earl Hembruff replied with a different brand of stick-up—he threw an ice-cream sundae in the thief's face.

■ Overturning his car into a ditch to avoid a collision with a stalled car at a stop light on the Queen Elizabeth Way, D. G. Paterson of Brant-

ford, Ont., crawled out, lunch box in hand. While police officers questioned him, he nonchalantly munched a chicken leg.

■ In Winnipeg Steve Wosniak, who had $1,500 on him when arrested, was fined $30 and costs for cheating on meal checks. Crown Prosecutor O. M. Kay said he would order a meal costing more than the highest figure shown on restaurant checks and the waitress would have to write the amount in pencil. Wosniak would then rub this out and punch the check at a much smaller amount.

■ Travellers on Toronto streetcars left 44,000 articles behind during the past year. These included 101 watches, 698 umbrellas and 20 sets of false teeth.

■ A 70-year-old would-be Romeo landed in Saanich (BC) Police Court last week charged with trespassing. A police sergeant explained that the pensioner lives on the same street as the complainant: "He tells me he is in love with this lady and wants to marry her. The trespassing always occurs anytime between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. He says he hears her calling him and immediately goes to her aid." Court officials had to almost scream at him, however, to make him hear.

letters

Geographers Stirred

CERTAIN misstatements in your "education" column (SN Dec. 6) may create false impressions concerning the present status of Geography in Ontario. They should, therefore, be publicly corrected.

The picture of Geography Departments at Canadian universities in 1949, as represented in the figures given by your reporter, is somewhat blurred. McMaster was the second university in Canada to establish a full Department of Geography. At the present time it consists not, as your article intimates, of one, but of three full-time instructors; two of professorial rank, and one a lecturer. Professor J. W. Watson, Head of the Department, is at present on leave of absence for 1949-50 in Ottawa, where he is acting as Chief of the Geographic Bureau. He has also been entrusted with the heavy responsibility of preparing a new edition of the Atlas of Canada. His place is being taken this year by two temporary appointments.

McMaster University has given a good many teachers to the secondary schools of Ontario. We are proud that ours is the first Course to be approved for the new Geography Specialist's Certificate, which should do much to correct the deficiencies recorded by the CIPO poll to which reference is made in your article.

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont. H. S. ARMSTRONG *Acting Dean.*

British Columbia, Too

IN YOUR Education article on the teaching of Geography in Canadian universities you said: " . . . McMaster, UBC, Laval and Western Ontario have one each." Actually, the UBC has three full-time

REFUTED: *Assertion of Professor Griffith Taylor, U of T, that Canada is "most backward" in geography.*

teachers of professorial rank, two other members of the Department of Geology and Geography of professorial rank who teach some geography, and some five student assistants or demonstrators.

Vancouver, B.C. JOHN MARKS

And Newfoundland

SHOULD not the list of Canadian universities having departments of geography include Memorial University College, now becoming Memorial University of Newfoundland? A small college yet, it gives at present two courses in geography and maintains a full-time lecturer, Harold B. Goodridge, M.A.

St. John's, Nfld. A. G. HATCHER

This Is Not Funny

I AGREE with Passing Show (SN Dec. 13) that the Senate is funny. I also agree that the other governmental bodies are amusing —though many people laugh, when they should shout with rage. But when you suggest that the Supreme Court is funny—well, I am writing to register my objections.

The Supreme Court is our only defence, in the final analysis, against a foolish or a tyrannical government. Their decisions are not amusing, their deliberations are not amusing, nor are their salaries. The Supreme Court is the one bit of our democratic system of government that is not amusing.

Deep River, Ont. W. H. STEVENS

Liberals Lose Confidence

YOUR EDITORIALS on the Federal Government's action in "flouting" the law in the Combines case are in your customary tradition. I think that appreciation should be expressed by readers, especially those who generally vote Liberal and are generally great admirers of Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Chevrier and the others.

I have heard many of these express criticism of the party for which they worked and voted; they would regain this lost confidence if Mr. St. Laurent would take appropriate action, as Mr. Coldwell rightly claims would have been taken in such a case by the British Government. We like your wording: "The Government has jeopardized its most fragile and its most valuable possession—the public confidence"; and " . . . there is a penalty attached even if it is long delayed."

Toronto. ALBERT H. BOOMER

We Started Something!

I SEE you say you have now said your last word on "flaunt" and "flout." It has been a fine campaign. I venture to suggest that you might now open fire on any one of the following: "comprise" for "compose," "connive" for "conspire," "substitute" for "replace," "adjust" as an intransitive verb, "belabor" for "labor," "presently" for "at present," "as much as we detest Mr. Blank, we must admit . . ." for "much as we detest Mr. Blank . . .", "different than" for "different from."

It mightn't do any harm either to take a shot at ponderous circumlocutions like "prior to" for "before," and "in the event that" for "if." You will perhaps feel particularly eager to deal with the last two when I tell you that they are often used by trade unionists. It's a chance to blame us for the corruption of the English language, as well as for inflation, devaluation, etc., etc.

Ottawa. EUGENE FORSEY

■ *Perhaps we had better just begin to serialize Fowler's "Modern English Usage."*

All Errant Leanings

FROM now on, thanks to Mr. Sandwell,
Canadians who wish to stand well
In reputation for their English
Will take good care that they distinguish
Of *flaunt* and *flout* the proper meanings,
And exorcise all errant leanings
To *flout* what dictionaries teach
And *flaunt* in public print or speech
Their ignorance of the use of each.

Chester, N.S. WINTHROP BELL

Interest in Education

MAY I congratulate you on the article, "Aid for Education—Live Issue," which appeared in the Capital Comment column in your November 8 edition, and thank you for your interest in education.

Articles of this type are of great value in that they present to the public information regarding education which should be more fully recognized than it is at the present time.

Edmonton. ERIC C. ANSLEY
Alberta Teachers' Association

Missed Toronto

I WAS very sorry to notice that there was no reference (in SN Dec. 6) to one of the finest school architects, Mr. C. E. C. Dyson, chief architect of the Toronto Board of Education, and his staff, who are permanently employed by the Board of Education and who have carried out the construction of many school buildings in Toronto, viz., Riverdale Collegiate addition, Bloor Collegiate addition, Lawrence Park Collegiate, Northern Vocational, and many others.

Board of Education, Toronto. C. H. R. FULLER *Business Administrator*

Our Cover Girl

YOUR COVER picture of Brooke Claxton may have been a scoop on the new jet twin-engine fighter (SN Nov. 22) but the cover of the little girl and her panda awaiting Santa (SN Dec. 20) did more to my heart. Now, can you tell us who the young lady is?

LYNDA STEELE

Hamilton, Ont. R. T. HICKS

■ *Yes, she is Lynda Fitzgerald Steele, two-year-old daughter of portrait photographer John Steele.*

Sadler's Wells a Loser

DESPITE the sell-out of "Sadler's Wells" ballet tickets and the disappointment of a great many in not having seen the dancing and heard the music, we are told that the troupe needed to be subsidized by The British Council to cover its expenses in Canada. Such was not the case in the United States.

Would the answer lie, Sir, in the fact that Toronto is gravely in need of a sufficiently large theatre? Does it follow that many more might be able to see the best at less cost if we had a good, big legitimate theatre?

Might not the answer lie with us? If Toronto had a legitimate stage that was the best in North America, wouldn't it be worth while and would it not pay?

Tickets for name shows cost as much, and often more in Toronto, than they do in New York and West End London.

Toronto. JACK GOLDING

Invest Abroad

RATHER than the Canadian Government continuing to subsidize exports—either directly by gifts and loans, or indirectly by allowing trade deficits or making special price agreements—it would be advantageous to all concerned if Canada were to invest the favorable balance in the country in question.

By such investments, millions of dollars which would be otherwise lost to us, could be put to work. This would not only bring in an interest (on capital which would otherwise probably be lost altogether) but would also help to build up the debtor country so that she would be in a stronger position to trade with us.

Unquestionably the Government would have to use much forethought in formulating a policy for such investments; to safeguard the capital, to ensure that politics (either internal or external) are kept out of the picture, etc.

Certainly in the case of the U.K. such a scheme would undoubtedly be very popular; for it is the U.K. which is at once our greatest debtor, and also the country which we most require to be built up economically again. What better way could there be to aid both countries to continue trading at a high volume level without continual subsidizing, while also helping to rebuild the U.K.'s strong trading position; and at the same time providing Canada with one of the most important keys to the U.K.'s prosperity over the past 150 years, *i.e.*: Overseas Investments?

Toronto. KENNETH G. FRANKUM

Viewed from Venezuela

I CONGRATULATE you on the improved appearance in the new color scheme in your edition and I enjoy your paper very much even though some of your articles are a lot of hooey such as the recent one about titles being necessary to distinguish Canadians at the United Nations. To me that is putting the clock back. The free republics including the United States in the Pan-American Union have representatives also; and these men do not have titles. MD or Dr. is good enough.

Canada should be a member of the Pan-American Union and should have also a distinctive national flag. As a Canadian who has to spend his life abroad, these things are important; one does not like to be classed as a limey.

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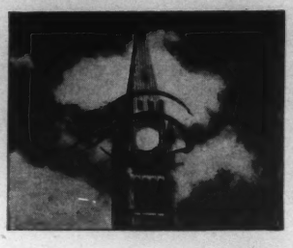

OTTAWA VIEW

Merry Christmas to All

WITH PITY for the great and charity for all men, SATURDAY NIGHT respectfully offers its list of Christmas presents. Take a peek over our shoulder at these gifts for:

Douglas Abbott, Minister of Finance: The lease of a house in Saskatchewan.

Fred A. McGregor, Combines Commissioner: A bag of Self-Raising Flour (no milling required).

W. L. Mackenzie King: A dictaphone and a "Man Working" sign for his study door.

The National Film Board: A smaller screen with clearer definition.

Lester B. Pearson, Minister of External Affairs: A new wharf for Manitoulin Island.

George Drew, Leader of the Pro-

gressive Conservatives: A new Dodge for 1950.

The Royal Commission on Transportation: A brief case.

Louis St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada: "Howe to Win Friends and Influence People."

Joseph Stalin, Premier of the USSR: "All This and Timbucktoo."

Harry S. Truman, President of the U.S.: An atomizer.

Clement Attlee, Prime Minister of the U.K.: Merry Christmas and happy general elections.

Donald Gordon, Chairman of CNR: Conductor's punch.

Ross Macdonald, Speaker of the House of Commons: "French Without Tears."

Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence: A better 'ole.

Jean-Francois Pouliot, MP for Temiscouta: "The Decay of Obloquy" or a dictionary with all the definitions left blank.

Colonial Airlines: Rich, ripe loganberries.

David Ben-Gurion, Premier of Israel: Illuminated copy of "Jerusalem the Golden".

Mrs. Nancy Hodges, Speaker of BC Legislature: A Speaker's gavel in the shape of a rollingpin.

Leslie Frost, Premier of Ontario: Eight years' subscription to the *Toronto Star*.

M. J. Coldwell, Leader of the CCF:

—All Drawings: Harold Towne

The Share-the-Wealth jackpot.

A. D. Dunton, Chairman of the CBC: Five silver dollars.

Maurice Duplessis, Premier of Quebec: A compact, also a master key to unlock all padlocks.

E. D. Fulton, MP for Kamloops: *Chums* annual.

James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture: Bacon and eggs sunny side up.

Stuart Garson, Minister of Justice: 15 days without the option.

C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce: Two new pipes.

Vincent Massey, Chairman of the Royal Commission on Arts and Letters: Cultured pearls.

All Faithful Liberal Back-Benchers: A bunch of 'mums.

SATURDAY NIGHT

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY
Established 1887

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COVER

BEFORE Fra Filippo Lippi arrived on the scene the painting of the Florentine school had plenty of power but no worldly joy, no subtle color combinations, no pleasurable details. Fra Lippi's pictures are the work of a man who lightly appraised the Madonna as a lovely thing for his brush and left the moral and ecclesiastical worries to the priests and orthodox artists. Here in "Virgin Adoring the Child" we have the Madonna in the form of a young and attractive Florentine woman; and here we have close observation of landscape detail not to occur in Italian painting again until the time of Correggio.

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Vol. 65, No. 12 Whole No. 2957

Capital comment

Concern Over Canada's Food

THE FARM talks at Ottawa and the spirited exchanges between J. G. Gardiner and British spokesmen over food contracts serve to call public attention to the fact that we are moving out of the wartime era of government controls over production and marketing. But what kind of new era are we moving toward? Is it to be a return of private trading, a free market system, with fluctuations in price levels bringing about some sort of eventual equilibrium between production and consumption of foodstuffs? In a word, a return to the 1920's?

Canadian farmers are naturally apprehensive. The change we are making will almost surely be for the worse rather than the better, for a while at least. But we cannot avoid a change.

The circumstances which for several years have given the Canadian farmer the best returns and the highest measure of stability in our history are ending: new world factors are less favorable. It is a situation not of narrow concern to the Canadian farmer. Purchasing power on the farms of Canada is one of the vital forces of Canadian prosperity.

Familiar Pattern

It is hardly necessary to elaborate this latter point. The onset of economic depression in Canada has in the past followed a familiar pattern. External demand for Canada's food and other export staples falls off; surpluses begin to show up; prices slide. The income of the primary producer falls proportionately; his orders for merchandise both outside and inside Canada go down also. This cuts down the volume of business of secondary industry in Canada, and sales in wholesale and retail outlets. This is soon reflected in decreased employment. Falling prices encourage buyers to hold off, to allow inventory to fall. Each new economic development thus tends to set off a new series of unfavorable reactions. If not stopped, serious distress develops.

If there is an undercurrent of uncertainty in the mood of the Canadian people as they contemplate the prospective deterioration of firm food contracts at good prices, these are the fears that are being entertained.

So far they are only fears—and there are moderate optimists at Ottawa as well as pessimists. Granted that there is bound to be *some* scaling down from the most prosperous days the Canadian farmer has ever enjoyed, it by no means follows that we are heading for grave trouble in the early future. Our food surpluses may be a little more difficult to dispose of, and the prices may not be quite so satisfactory. But there are underlying strengths and elements of security which were not present twenty years ago. Moreover, there is a much greater confidence in our power to apply state remedies than there was then.

It does not help much to be told by world food authorities that a very large percentage of the world's population is chronically hungry, unless ways and means can be found for exchanging Canada's food surpluses for something which Canada needs and can take into her economy without undue disruption of domestic price levels. Without effective world demand, such insatiable hunger elsewhere can continue to exist alongside of Canadian surpluses.

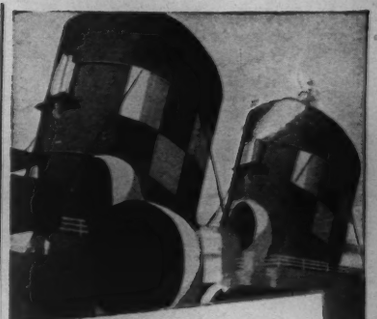
Who Feeds Whom?

The Second World War increased the industrialization of Canada. Our food production is not going up materially, but our consumption is. The Maritime provinces do not, on balance, feed themselves; Ontario and Quebec barely so. British Columbia consumes more food than it produces, on balance. Practically all of Canada's food surpluses arise either directly or indirectly from the exploitation of the short-grass plains and border belt-land of western Canada. This does not minimize the overall problem, but it helps to isolate it.

Of several commodities, Canada is always just about able to consume its own production. Butter is a good example. Sometimes we import, sometimes export. Potatoes are another. Then there are several commodities of which we normally have an exportable surplus, though the total involved is not great either in terms of dollars involved or as a percentage of the total Canadian consumption. The one big exception is cereals. Canada normally produces three or four times as much wheat as she can consume.

My own guess would be that we are firmly committed to state support of food prices. Orderly marketing, at least to the extent of floor prices for agricultural products, will be the policy of all parties. We have supported apples, potatoes, butter. Next in line is eggs. The floors will have to be realistically set, of course, so that prices maintain some relationship to consumer buying power.

by Wilfrid Eggleston



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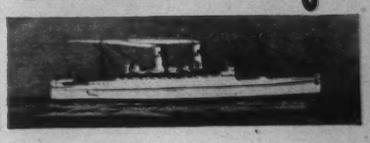

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PJ-48

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then and now

Anniversaries

Thomas Rennie, well-known businessman and curler, former Chairman of the Toronto Harbor Commission until ill-health forced him to resign two years ago. In 1945 he was honored with a Vice-presidency in the Royal Caledonian Club of Edinburgh; 81st, Dec. 14.

Appointments

The Hon. **R. M. Fielding,** Member of the Nova Scotia Legislature for Halifax West since 1941 and Crown Prosecutor for Halifax County, was sworn in this month as Minister of Municipal Affairs, bringing the NS Cabinet up to its pre-election strength of nine members.

John Leslie, 88, former Vice-president of CPR; at Westmount, Que. He started as a clerk with the old Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway.

Fergus Mutrie, 44, a native of Regina, will be Director of Television for the CBC in Toronto. **Aurele Seguin,** well-known in radio circles in Ottawa, Quebec and Montreal, has been appointed to a similar position in Montreal.

Deaths

Dr. George Weir, 64, BC educationist and politician. In the twenties, with the late J. H. Putnam, he surveyed the BC school system which he later overhauled as Minister of Education in the Pattullo Government. Probably best known for his long fight to put health insurance on the map in BC.

Senator A. B. Copp, long prominent in New Brunswick politics and a member of one of Mr. King's cabinets. His widow, **Mrs. A. B. Copp,** died five days later at Newcastle, NB. She had been active in community affairs in Sackville until her health failed in recent years.

Major-General V. A. S. Williams, 82, former Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, (1922-39) with 40 years' service in the Canadian Army. Born at Port Hope, Ont., he served with the Royal Canadian Dragoons in the South African War and commanded troops at the Coronation of King George V in 1911; in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

Manfred J. Gaskell, 76, well-known book publisher and retailer in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal; in Toronto after a long illness.

Col. Lawrence T. (Larry) Martin, 65, former Vice-chairman of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway and well-known engineer and construction contractor of Ottawa; of a heart seizure. A pioneer in railway construction in the mining areas of Northern Ontario and Quebec, he helped recruit and later commanded the 7th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops, in World War I.

Dr. J. Scott (Scotty) Conklin, 77, well-known BC medical pioneer and past President of the Vancouver Medical Association.

NEXT ISSUE'S COVER

SATURDAY NIGHT on its cover of the Jan. 3 issue (next week's) will carry a full-color portrait reproduction of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, by the world-famous photographer, Yousuf Karsh. This picture appears in Canada exclusively in SATURDAY NIGHT. Church leaders, artists, engravers, and editors who have seen this work by Karsh are unanimous that it is one of the finest photographs he has ever taken. The picture will be suitable for trimming and framing. In the Jan. 3 issue there will also be an article on the Holy Year by SN's Religion editor, John Dunlop.

SN readers who wish extra copies of the issue may make purchases at newsstands or write directly to SATURDAY NIGHT Circulation Department, 73 Richmond Street West, Toronto, enclosing ten cents for each copy.

■ OTHER FEATURES next week are "Siberian Shadows: Not All Are Nudists," a story on the Doukhobors, by Jim Wright, a Governor General's Award winner; "What Is Government 'Screening'?" by Michael Barkway; "Canada's New North" by Col. Harwood Steele; "I Was Miss Canada's Chaperone in Lima" by Elsa Grahame May; two profiles; and a wide range of departments, interpreting Canada and the world to Canadians.

Anna Perkins Maclean, 82, wife of Col. John Bayne Maclean, founder and Chairman of the Board of the Maclean-Hunter Publishing Co. Ltd. U.S. born, Mrs. Maclean's distinguished ancestry included Richard Clark, the first United Empire Loyalist and the Boston banker to whom was consigned the tea which was thrown into the harbor in 1773 by American Revolutionaries.

Daniel Weppler, 89, formerly Customs Collector at Hanover, Ont., for 20 years and one-time telegraph operator at Petersburg, Ont., for the Grand Trunk Railway.

John Reid, 97, New Westminster, BC, industrialist, alderman, school trustee and police commissioner. His name is associated with the province's first under-drainage mole plough in 1880, the first four-wheel stage coaches, buggies, and sawdust burners in BC, and the first gasoline locomotive and lumber carrier made in Canada.

Squadron-Leader Charles Webber, 37, Commanding Officer of training school at Trenton, Ont., and pilot of an RCAF Mitchell Bomber which crashed while homeward-bound from a weather-testing flight. Sqdn.-Ldr. Webber came to Canada from England on an exchange posting. Three other crew members were also killed.

Catherine I. Grout Linton, 86, widow of John Linton, in Toronto. A pioneer missionary in South America for 20 years among the Guarani Indians.

Charles G. Hare, 61, well-known resident of Bapaume, Sask. and Wheat Pool delegate for past eight years.

SATURDAY NIGHT

The Front Page

Vol. 65 No. 12 December 27, 1949

The Constitution Problem

QUEBEC seems to be the only province in which there is any realization of the fact that Canada is settling down to the establishment of a method of procedure for the amendment (which might mean in time the complete re-writing) of its constitution without ever having given any serious study to what it wants that procedure to be. Even in Quebec the consideration has been neither widespread nor critical. There appears to be a disposition in that province to think that Mr. St. Laurent can do no wrong in this particular matter because he is a French Canadian and has achieved the position of Prime Minister, or else that Mr. St. Laurent can do nothing anyhow without the consent of Mr. Duplessis. Both these assumptions appear to us to be inadequate, though there may be some truth in the idea that Mr. St. Laurent will not venture to put through any constitutional arrangements against which Mr. Duplessis raises a vigorous and reasonably plausible objection.

The best suggestion we have yet seen is one put forward by Paul Gérin-Lajoie in a speech to the Montreal Reform Club. He proposes that school and language rights should be changeable only with the concurrence of all the provinces. This would have the effect of enabling even an extension of the French language to be blocked by the resistance of Alberta or Saskatchewan, but that is perhaps inevitable.

All other constitutional provisions, except those already taken over by the Dominion Parliament as having no effect on provincial rights, would be amendable, in Mr. Gérin-Lajoie's plan, by the concurrence of two-thirds (or possibly three-fourths) of the provinces, representing at least 75 per cent of the population of Canada. He describes the effect of this as being that "no amendment could be carried against the will of any four (or possibly three) of the provinces, whatever the size of their population; and no amendment could be carried against the will of any province or provinces representing more than 25 per cent of the population of Canada."

This is obviously much superior to any device for giving the veto power to named areas such as the Maritimes or the Prairie Provinces, for the principle would be preserved no matter what shifts in population might occur. Mr. Gérin-Lajoie proposes also that the verdict of the provinces should be capable of being given either by their governments, or by their voters in a referendum, that the Dominion Parliament should have the power to choose the method, and that whichever method is chosen should be nation-wide. In the event of an amendment, desired by a large part of the country, being defeated by the action of a provincial legislature, a referendum could be taken to ascertain whether the electors of that province could be induced to reverse the decision of their government.

These methods would obviously make the alteration of the constitution in regard to controversial matters more difficult, but not, we think, unreasonably so. And SATURDAY NIGHT has no desire to see the fundamental law made capable of being tinkered with too readily.

Loopholes in New Law

WE THINK the Hon. J. B. McNair, Attorney General of New Brunswick, has something in his contention that the new law against crime comics can have no application to the pictures representing the odd behavior of various monsters, dragons, salamanders, Saturnians, moon creatures, who perform the most extraordinary antics in the kind of pictorial literature against which the new law is directed, but which cannot "commit crime" because they are not persons.

The Fulton Act should have been amended to apply to any book or periodical which "exclusively or substantially comprises matter depicting pictorially the commission of crime or of acts which if performed by human persons would constitute crime." This would cover the kidnapping of beautiful and scantily clad girls by herds of intelligent but evil-disposed apes in the Tarzan jungle. The present law certainly will not.

The Rand Judgment

THE minority judgment of Mr. Justice Rand in the Jehovah's Witnesses case is a clear call to arms to all those who value the right of the individual to write, to print and to circulate his opinions, even though they may meet with violent objection from some of those among whom they are circulated. It is a frontal attack upon a doctrine which has been too readily accepted by a great many Canadians in recent years—the doctrine that if an utterance is likely to cause a breach of the peace *by those who object to it*, the responsibility for that breach is upon the utterer and not upon the objectors, and the police may properly prevent the utterance rather than allow the utterance and prevent the breach of the peace. That is a most dangerous doctrine, though obviously very comforting to the police and to those in power who have the control of the police.

The document which the Quebec authorities have sought to suppress as being a seditious libel is one which, though admittedly couched in very provocative terms, and perhaps very ill calculated to produce the effect upon Quebec opinion which it professes to desire, is nevertheless in the main a protest against this doctrine of the responsibility of the utterer for the disorders committed by his opponents. Mr. Justice Rand by his recital of the indignities, restraints and assaults suffered by the

"VERY NICE, JOHN, BUT YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT!"

Jehovah's Witnesses in that province has reminded the nation of the atmosphere in which the pamphlet was penned, and of the right common to every citizen to protest against such disorders and particularly against the "errors or defects in the government" which cause them to be tolerated. In 1837 the people of Quebec were among the first to join in such a protest against the "errors and defects" of the government of that time. We believe that they did so out of a genuine belief in liberty, and not merely because the government of that time was in the hands of English-speaking persons.

Misplaced Half-Century

WE CANNOT help feeling a little sorry for the *Financial Post*, which has been going on for years and years thinking that the twentieth century began on January 1, 1900, and that its first half will consequently be completed on December 31, 1949, next Saturday. Worse than that, the *Financial Post* has been running around filling up a great number of eminent Canadians with this wholly fallacious idea, and getting them to express their views on Canada's progress during "the first half of this century", a period which will not expire until December 31, 1950.

The *Financial Post*, which is in its forty-third volume, is of course much too young to have any experiential knowledge of the debate which raged in 1899 and 1900 on this question of the true end of the century. SATURDAY NIGHT, which was founded in 1887, is more fortunate. The debate was unquestionably won by the advocates of the end of 1900 as the proper date. The other doctrine requires the assumption that at the beginning of the Christian Era there was a Year Zero, neither A.D. nor B.C., which yet could be included in the computation of the First Century. On that assumption the First Decade ended at the end of the year 9, and so on to the present time. But there was of course never any such Year Zero; the first year of the Christian Era was the year one, and the first year of the twentieth century was the year 1901.

Anyhow the Astronomer Royal of Great Britain and the Dominion Astronomer (his title has not yet been changed so far as we can find) agree with us that the mid-century will not occur until the end of 1950—at which time SATURDAY NIGHT will seek to celebrate it with appropriate reading matter—and the *Financial Post* will presumably accuse us of being a year late.

Words and Their Uses

NOW that peace reigns temporarily in the political sphere owing to the beneficent intervention of the Holiday Season, we shall return to our favorite task of expurgating the English employed in Canadian journalism. Before we do so we cannot refrain from communicating to our readers the frightful news that the use of "flaunt" for "flout," far from being confined to Canada, can actually be discovered in such an authoritative publication as the *Times Literary Supplement*. Dr. Winthrop Bell, of Chester, N.S., a valued correspondent of and occasional contributor to this journal, tells us that in the issue of September 9 one can read, in a review of a book on Simon Bolivar: "Heaven itself seemed to intervene, sending a terrible earthquake which convinced the superstitious populace that they had committed a sin in flaunting the king's authority." Their sin, we are sure, was no greater than that of the writer of this review.

Toronto's Mayor, if correctly reported by the *Globe and Mail*, has a sound idea of the meaning of "flout" but still in some vague way associates it with "flaunt." He is reported as having said of certain restaurant owners that "they have flouted in our faces the restrictions which went with the granting of their license." We presume he meant that they flaunted in his face their flouting, etc.

We have been asked to undertake the purification of the English language in several other respects, some of which appear to us to be pretty hopeless. One of these is the confusing of the verbs "to effect" and "to affect." The superintendent of schools of Saskatoon would doubtless maintain that this is a distinction which does not matter, since it is scarcely audible in speech with the accent correctly placed on the second syllable.

—National Film Board

MR. JUSTICE RAND: *Battle-Cry for Freedom.*

One correspondent wants us to take exception to the use of a plural verb with the expression "One out of five Canadians," a form very common with commentators on the Gallup Poll. This we do not feel disposed to do. We belong to the class of critics which holds that sense has large rights over strict grammatical construction. When one says "one out of five Canadians like their tea weak" one is not thinking of any individual Canadian. One is thinking of a vast number of Canadians, some two and a half millions of them, and while the singular verb would certainly not be wrong the plural verb strikes us as perfectly admissible.

We are also indisposed to obey an injunction to discourage the use of that very peculiar expression, "try and do so-and-so" in the sense of "try to do." We like Fowler's dictum on this subject: "It is an idiom that should be not discountenanced, but used when it comes natural." To which he adds: "See Pedantry." Its use is almost wholly confined to exhortations and promises, and as an example we may say that we have exhorted the Dominion Government, and the Dominion Government has promised, to try and do better in the matter of printing the Combines Commissioner's reports within the prescribed time.

And having reached the subject of exhorting, we wish to exhort all cub reporters, re-write men, city editors and proofreaders of the Canadian newspaper press to bear in mind that the adjective "exorbitant" has no connection whatever with exhortation and is never correctly spelled with an h. We offer no dollar rewards for examples of this illiteracy. It occurred in the *Globe and Mail* on December 15, and occurs in some newspaper every day.

Jerusalem, Not the Golden

A MOST interesting metamorphosis is taking place in world politics as a result of the establishment of Israel as an independent state and the development in its people of the ordinary ambitions and aspirations which go with such statehood.

For generations the Jews who are citizens of other nations have been among the most internationally-minded of the citizenry of the nations to which they severally belonged. (It was in part this fact which caused them to incur the violent hostility of the ultra-nationalistic Nazi party in Germany.) They have been among the leading supporters of the League of Nations, the United Nations, and of movements for world government, for freer communications and greater intimacy of relationship between nations, and generally for the diminution of the absolute sovereignty of the national state.

The development of a strong sense of nationality among the Jewish inhabitants of Israel, climaxed by the adoption of the mystical belief (nationalism has always a strong element of mysticism in it) in "the historic natural right of the people of Zion" to possession of their "eternal capital" of Jerusalem, is changing this attitude almost over-night. The Jewish citizens of at least the English-speaking nations (we do not much like using these racial terms, and perhaps a better expression would be the citizens who are politically conscious of their Jewish ancestry) are fast turning towards a mystical concept of the state which closely resembles the mystical concept of Ireland which leads so many Irish to reject "partition" as a crime against nature. That they tend to apply this concept only to Israel makes little difference; the mystical concept of the state is something which one does not have to entertain about any and all states, but only about the particular state which evokes one's emotional sympathies—as Ireland does with the Irish both at home and in the United States and the rest of the English-speaking world.

In the conflict between Israel and the United Nations it is obvious that Israel is predestined to

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Planes of Space and Time

As when, through plated folds of finite space
we peered at distance, and the subtle glass
brought up the stick and stone of place and
place,
far hillsides, forests, cattle deep in grass;
and drew their fabric—leaf and root and limb,
the rock, the road, the falling stream, the blown
white fringe of vapor on the mountain's rim—
in, to the dooryard's earth and stick and stone. . .

So now, in the tiered textures of the brain—
deeper than glass, and moving—curling sea
comes up, and frosty pastures, and dim rain,
and faces, and known gestures.

Silently
the moving moments come: and all, all, all,
drawn to this breath, this now, this something
said
of space and time . . .
And lamplight on the wall,
and someone slowly going up to bed.

CHARLES BRUCE

win. The United Nations is in no condition of unity and solidarity such as could alone give it any chance in a struggle against Jewish nationalism not only in Israel but all over the world. But the issue of the conflict over the question of Jerusalem is a minor matter compared with the enormous change which the conflict itself is producing in the condition of world opinion regarding the relative claims of nationalism and internationalism. It is a change which is not favorable to peace or to the growth of supra-national authority.

Not So Very British

THE Labor-Progressive party, as our readers are aware, has taken over the memory of all the rebels whom it can discover in the history of Canada, from Mackenzie and Papineau to Louis Riel. We cannot of course prove that Mackenzie, Papineau and Riel would not have been followers of Marx and Stalin if they had lived to the present time, though it strikes us as somewhat improbable. But when the LPP organ, the *Canadian Tribune*, quotes a fine but emphatically anti-British poem on the death of Riel by Joaquin Miller and describes that eminent Californian as "a contemporary British poet" we feel entitled to protest.

The *Tribune* claims to be something of an authority on the international literature of revolution, and ought to know that Miller, generally known as the Poet of the Sierras, was born in Indiana and spent his whole life in the United States. His sole connection with Britain is that when American publishers refused to have anything to do with his poems "he took them to London, where they were published and brought him fame," according to the Encyclopedia Americana.

A Remarkable Hearing

WHEN the management of Colonial Airlines decided to fight the civil air agreement of last June between the U.S. and Canadian Governments, it must have decided that the point had passed when public goodwill had to be counted as an important asset. Certainly its attitude before the Canadian Air Transport Board was not calculated to mollify Canadian opinion.

The invocation of the Logan Act was a piece of legal ingenuity which rebounded badly, and was blown sky-high by the U.S. Secretary of State in a public statement in Washington. More amusing was the quotation by the Board's counsel of the solemn argument advanced by Colonial in the U.S. that TCA had not enough experience to fly the "difficult route" between New York and Montreal; and it was great fun to hear Colonial's counsel trying to defend its own monopoly by invoking the Sherman anti-trust act.

What devious ends Colonial is hoping to gain it is hard to say. If it wins its case in the U.S. courts it will kill all civil air agreements made by the U.S. and will lose its New York-Montreal route anyway. If it loses its case TCA will eventually get a licence for the route and will capture a lot of the traffic—more, probably, than it would have done if Colonial had not been obstructive. All the fuss may be designed to bring pressure to bear on the Civil Aeronautics Board of the United States to give Colonial another route, or it may be intended merely to extend the profitable monopoly on the Montreal run to the last possible week.

The airline has at least demonstrated its ability to stir up certain senators and arouse the maximum amount of trouble. Its representatives seemed a little bewildered by the directness of the Canadian proceedings. But the most embarrassed people are probably the U.S. Administration, caught between the desire to fulfil their agreement with Canada, the constitutional impossibility of doing so and the political pressure to "stand up for American interests."

New Film Commissioner

THE appointment of W. Arthur Irwin, editor of *Maclean's Magazine*, to the important post of Government Film Commissioner is a move which should do much to restore the public confidence in an organization which has done much excellent work but which has never been on what could properly be called a sound business basis. Mr. Irwin is a very able editor, with a wide knowledge of Canada and a notably broad concept of its destiny and its place in the world. If he can make the work of the national film-producing agency conform to his own editorial standards he will do well.

The Film Board organization attracted to itself under John Grierson a group of very clever and ambitious young artists, many of them with pretty definite Socialistic leanings. We have always doubted whether Mr. Grierson concerned himself much about imparting to these young people a sense that they were working for a quite definite employer, the Government of Canada, and that their efforts ought to be directed towards turning out what that Government might want. Rather, we fancy, he led them to feel that they had in their hands a superbly effective piece of propaganda mechanism, which they should use to influence public opinion in the direction in which they, the film-making organization, thought it ought to be influenced. This is an entirely proper attitude on the part of an individual artist offering his wares in the open market, and willing to take a chance on his sales; it is less proper for a group of people living on salaries paid by the state and producing works of art with materials provided by the state.

Mr. Grierson has gone, and his interim successor, who does not seem to have made much change, has now gone also, and Mr. Irwin is a very different sort of person. He no doubt (like most of the rest of us) regards the world as a pretty sorry scheme of things, but he will never "conspire" with the Film Board to shatter it to bits and then remould it nearer to the heart's desire.

Mr. Irwin's departure makes way for the return to *Maclean's*, as top editor, of Ralph Allen, who has been devoting his time for some months to the writing of a sports column in the Toronto *Telegram*. We have long thought that Mr. Allen's talents deserved a somewhat larger sphere, and we congratulate him on the great opportunity which this affords him for real national service.

Words

"Words are inadequate to describe the relationship between the people of the community and its community radio station."—From the brief of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

Words are inadequate, powerless, impotent,
Empty, incompetent, destitute, stale,
Flat and unprofitable, faulty, inferior,
Futile, inutile, indifferent, frail.

Words are superfluous, barren, imperfect,
Useless, abortive, dispensable, vain,
Weighed in the balance and found to be wanting,
Fit for the dust-hole, resourceless, inane.

Words are decrepit, deficient, uncalled for,
Perfunctory, bootless and fruitless, jejune,
Effete, unproductive, inept, milk-and-watery,
No earthly use, below par, out of tune.

Thousands of words are enrolled in the lexicons;
Many are warped and unsound; we don't need 'em;
Words that describe how you feel about radio
Likely will cost you a fine and your freedom!

J.E.P.

passing show

BRITISH Columbia seems to have the finest crop of local limericks of any Canadian province. The local place names, mostly derived from Coast Indian dialects, lend themselves to this form of art very readily. We like the following, contributed to The Lantern, a column in the Vancouver *Daily Province*, by G. Young of that city:

An Italian who lived in Tofino
Fell in love with a girl from Quatsino.
When he asked her to wed
She laughingly said:
"A Tofino bambino? Dear me, no!"

Few mills grind more slowly than those that grind out milling combine reports.

A British countess left ten guineas for an operation after death to make sure that she would not be buried alive. Surely that should come under the free medical services system, if, as is claimed, it covers one from cradle to grave.

What's wrong with work? inquires a writer in *Printer's Ink*. Around our office the inquiry is, What isn't?

Better inquire what Little Willie is reading

now that he isn't reading the Crime Comics.

The free world is rapidly expanding. Canadians can now enter Luxembourg without a visa.

"Last June the Conservative and CCF parties were decimated."—Ottawa *Journal*.
Much worse than that, brother. To decimate is to reduce by one-tenth.

The Peterborough *Examiner* says the Sudbury police are arresting bill passers. Members of Parliament, we presume.

Shirley Temple says she wants to leave the past behind, so presumably she already has another "future."

The First Snowfall

Taking centre stage
Winter lifts her white-gloved hand
Commanding silence.

AMABEL KING

We understand that the de-Nazified Nazis of Dresden, Germany, are sending a cable of congratulations to their little namesake town in Canada.

Lucy says a heavy Christmas trade is a pretty good sign of a heavy after-Christmas trade-in.

An Arena for a Clash of Leaders

National Conferences Provide
Chance for 11 Governments
To Argue Meaning of Canada

by Wilfrid Eggleston

THE FIRST Dominion-Provincial Conference did not take place until 1906, when Canada was nearly 40 years old; but there have been ten plenary conferences since, as well as numerous smaller conferences at the administrative level.

We shall have two more big meetings in 1950, it seems. One will begin on January 10, with an agenda confined to discovering a formula for the amendment of the constitution. The second will be held in September or October, to pick up all the important matters left in abeyance when the 1945-46 conference came to an abrupt adjournment on May 3, 1946.

The Fathers of Confederation made no specific provision for such Conferences and it is reasonable to suppose that they did not foresee the changes that would eventually make it desirable to hold them often. They neatly divided up the law-making powers between the national and provincial governments; they also divided up the revenue sources.

The shrewdest fiscal mind among them all was Sir Alexander T. Galt. He expected that the provinces would find ample revenues to discharge their supposedly modest or minor local expenditures. Under these circumstances it might be thought that the national government would go its own way, and the provincial governments theirs; and that there would be little occasion for formal meetings, since there were no great undefined fields of government or taxation in which they were jointly interested.

If this was the theory, it has been rudely discredited by events. In fairness to the Fathers, it should be pointed out that for 30 years, the division worked reasonably well. Surely even such wise men should not have been expected to foresee the revolutionary developments beginning about 1896 which altered the whole basis of the Dominion-Provincial relations.

The revolution was social, economic and constitutional. It was hastened by the First Great War, and further boosted by the Second. It left in its wake problems which could only be tackled by close cooperation between the national and provincial governments in Canada. That explains the Rowell-Sirois Commission, the calling of the 1941 Conference, the elaborate preparations for the 1945-46 Conference, and the widespread sense of public concern when these conferences broke down. It also explains the continuing unilateral negotiations with individual provinces, the repeated demands from Opposition and provincial leaders for a reconvening of the 1945-46 Conference, and finally the proposal to hold two in 1950.

Those who live in unitary states like Britain, France or Sweden often fail to appreciate to the full that a federal state is a union of several sovereignties. There are *eleven* seats of power in Canada, not one. Within their own prescribed areas of authority, the provincial governments are as autonomous, or nearly so, as is the national.

When Ottawa calls a Dominion-Provincial Conference (Will the adjective *Dominion* have to go now, and give way to *National* or some other word?), it is not summoning a group of subordinates, but a conference of peers, at least in some respects.

Just exactly what this relationship is, either in peace and war, is not, unfortunately, a matter of complete agreement between the national government and the provinces. It never has been: and this is one of the underlying disputes which have enlivened all Dominion-Provincial Conferences. There have always been potent champions of provincial rights against the feared or suspected encroachments of the alleged "centralizers" in the national government, and there presumably always will be. There are some forces in Canada making for centralization, and some centrifugal forces tending to enhance provincial powers.

—Globe and Mail

ALTA'S ABERHART: *A 2-day meet.*

—CP

BC'S PATTULLO: *Frank opponent.*

WILFRID EGGLESTON *is SN's Ottawa Contributing Editor.*

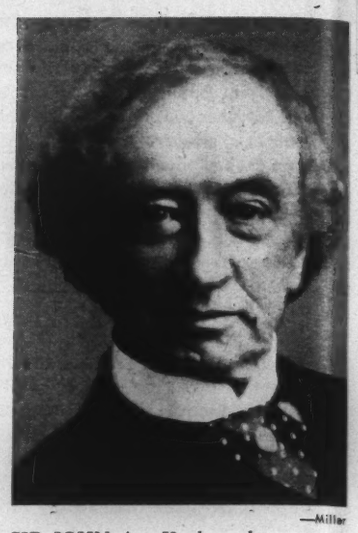
—CP

ONTARIO'S HEPBURN: *Snag in '41.*

Some problems thought to be purely "local" at Confederation, such as education, road transport and social welfare, have not only proved to be enormously expensive, but have developed some national characteristics. Moreover, since Confederation, the major provincial governments, with their hierarchy of civil servants, have tended to grow in prestige and power until they threaten at times to overshadow the national authority.

Ever since Confederation, certain of the provinces have tended to produce and sustain colorful leaders and champions of provincial rights. The forming of the Dominion Cabinet in 1867 tended to skim off and concentrate at Ottawa for a while all the ablest regional leaders of the time. The new provincial governments had to be created from scratch, given a constitution, and started off on their way. It took time to grow a new crop. But when Sir Oliver Mowat left the Bench of Ontario in 1872 to become Premier of Ontario, he soon served notice that provincial governments were going to battle for their rights. In the following decade, he was actively joined by Fielding in Nova Scotia and Mercier in Quebec.

These three provincial premiers, indeed, were the ringleaders in the first provincial conference called to meet at Quebec City in October, 1887. Mercier sought to cloak the meeting in sanctity and tradition by representing it as another "Quebec Conference", twenty years after Confederation, to review the accomplishments of the first Quebec Conference in 1864, which had planned the federal union of Canada. To give color to this interpretation, Mercier tried very hard to persuade every provincial premier to come, and he even invited Sir John A. Macdonald to be present.



—Miller

SIR JOHN A.: *He brought pressure.*

Sir John A., however, regarded it as a provincial revolt against himself, activated by party politics, and aimed at embarrassing the Conservative administration at Ottawa. He not only declined the invitation to attend, but he made it clear that he took sharp exception to the holding of such a provincial conference at all. He brought political pressure to bear on those two provinces with Conservative administrations, Prince Edward Island and BC, to stay away — which they did. The whole Conservative press of Canada made fun of the meeting.

The 1887 Conference proposed important amendments to the constitution, and "better terms", but it produced no results. In 1902, Premier S. N. Parent of Quebec tried again. A provincial conference which began on December 18 of that year brought together all provinces except Ontario and British Columbia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was said not to be unfriendly. This time the delegates concentrated on higher subsidies, and did not discuss the constitution. But there were no immediate fruits, any more than there had been in 1887.

The first genuine Dominion-Provincial Conference was, therefore, the one called by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in October, 1906. All the provinces attended. In the main the conference went smoothly, but Premier Richard McBride of British Columbia, a brilliant young barrister of Irish descent, stormed out of the conference in protest against a conference decision that British Columbia should receive no more than $100,000 a year for ten years to satisfy its claims for a special grant.

The next important conference was in 1927, when both constitutional

amendment and "better terms" were discussed. It was held in prosperous times and in a tranquil atmosphere.

The economic depression, which began in 1929, rapidly changed for the worse the fiscal standing of all the provinces as well as the Dominion, and enormously increased the load of social welfare services upon all governments. There were numerous anxious negotiations between Ottawa and the provinces all through the 1930's. But it was not until December, 1935, when the Mackenzie King administration had come back into power, that a plenary conference was again called.

The Conference of 1935 found itself with a top-heavy agenda of serious problems; it decided to reconvene in January, 1936.

What's the "Climate"?

Much depends on the political "climate" of these conferences, It so happened in 1935-36 that there were Liberal provincial parties in power right across the Dominion, except in Alberta, and the time seemed propitious for a major forward step toward an acceptable formula for amending the constitution. But even with everything in its favor, unanimity proved to be out of reach. Attorney-General J. B. McNair, reflecting the strong "provincialist" views of his colleagues, notably Hon. A. P. Paterson, cast a negative vote, opposing any change in method of amending the constitution.

The five years which elapsed between 1936 and the Dominion-Provincial Conference of January, 1941, were crowded with far-reaching and profound events. The Rowell-Sirois Commission had provided the national government with a carefully-studied and radical proposal for a reallocation of Dominion-Provincial responsibilities and tax fields. The war had thrown colossal new burdens on the national government. In sharp contrast with the decorum of earlier gatherings, the 1941 conference was sparked by the outspoken opposition of Hepburn of Ontario, Aberhart of Alberta, and Pattullo of BC; and it came to a futile end the second day.

The 1945-46 Conference brought new problems and new champions of provincial rights. Drew, Duplessis, MacDonald, Garson, Douglas, Manning and Hart were prominent in the provincial sphere, St. Laurent, Ilsley and Claxton, as well as Prime Minister Mackenzie King, for the Ottawa Government. The course of that Conference is too well remembered to require much attention here. Many of the same personalities will occupy key posts in the two conferences of 1950. Canadians from coast to coast will hope for more constructive news than came out of the last three meetings between Ottawa and the provinces.

■ THIS WEEK, at a testimonial dinner to Hon. Hugues Lapointe in Quebec City, Prime Minister St. Laurent called for an effort to maintain national unity, "indispensable to the welfare and progress of Canada."

Cooperation was the goal of the Dominion-Provincial conference on Jan. 10. Said he: "As everyone knows, the aim of this meeting is to complete the transfer from London to Canadian authorities jurisdiction over our constitution."

Santa Claus, C.O.D.

Mobilized and For Hire, Saint Nick Visits Ontario Towns Atop Mile-and-a-Half Parade

by Ronald J. Cooke

BESIDES its many claims to fame, Windsor, Ont., can also be credited with another first: it's the only town in the Dominion which manufactures a Christmas parade for rent. And the whole thing started when Santa Claus threw a bag of candies with misguided zeal and instead of landing in the hands of an eager youngster the package broke a bystander's glasses.

"It was a lucky break for me," says Mr. Benjamin G. Matlock whose home-made $80,000, mile and a half-long parade this year plays in 20 cities from Oshawa to Sarnia.

Before the war Santa Claus officially arrived on Windsor's main streets atop a bus whose appearance was slightly reminiscent of last year's Christmas tree. A little later, Mr. Matlock observes, the local merchants decided to pay $2,000 for a travelling U.S. parade. But the parade ran into a hurricane in Buffalo and by the time it got to Windsor it resembled a shipwrecked liner after 30 days at sea.

Both the eye-glass incident and the imported fizzle made it clear to 46-year-old Matlock that a city the size of Windsor should have a parade which would be equal to that put on by the big department stores in other cities.

Two and a half years ago he approached the Windsor Chamber of Commerce and showed them a few small models of floats which he felt resembled the type of parade he had in mind.

"There were six floats to be mounted on trucks and eight more which would be built on trailers and pulled by automobiles which I figured I could borrow from somewhere," he relates. "Those who saw the models were enthusiastic and the Retail Merchants' Association immediately raised $3,500—which was the rental fee I was asking Windsor for in advance."

Matlock then went to the bank and on the strength of his first contract borrowed $5,000 more. By May he had hired six full-time people, all of whom started to work in a reconverted stable just outside of Windsor.

"After half the floats were made I started running short of cash," reports Matlock, "so I sent out circular letters to all the towns in a 100-mile area suggesting that I'd be glad to put on a parade for them. All it would cost would be between $400 and $3,500 depending on the size of the city. I was amazed when 16 towns asked for reservations and enclosed payments."

On the Road

On November 6, 1948 the cavalcade rolled away from the big white wooden building known as Santa's Workshop, and Matlock's crew were on their way to play their first town.

When Windsor was importing their parades they always had difficulty in getting a good date—the big cities got the choice dates close to Christmas while the smaller localities such as Windsor had to be satisfied with late October and early November engagements.

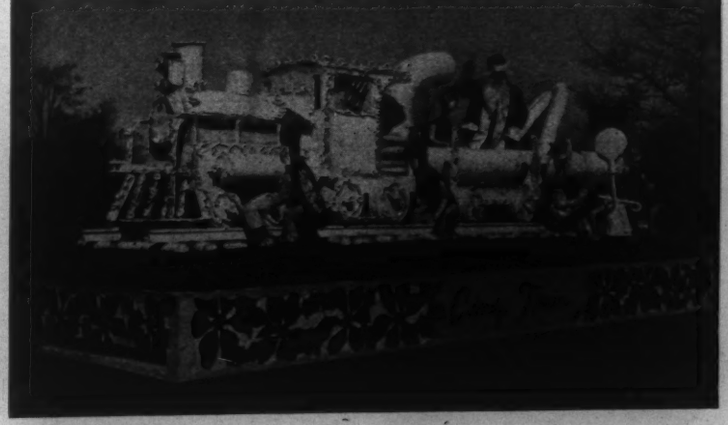
"Because Windsor has given me my start," reports Matlock, "I offered them first choice and they chose December the sixth. This was the date when the merchants figured a parade would spark the shopping season."

Last year there were a few hitches. For example it wasn't always easy to get a local band to handle the music end. Sometimes folks weren't too obliging about lending their cars to pull floats through the main streets. There was another problem too. Because of enthusiastic booking, errors were made in dates so that it often happened that there would be four or five days between engagements.

At the end of the season the parade man found that most of his profits had gone to maintain his crews. "I made a little profit," he relates, "but nothing close to what I'd figured on paper."

Nevertheless the parade idea had caught on and this year 20 towns eagerly signed for the show.

Matlock decided to put every penny he received back into the show with the result that in 1949 his parade has grown to 22 huge floats. There are now nine tractors and almost as many trucks to handle the transportation. Moreover, each float has been equipped with a recording machine so that there is plenty of music. Floats have been animated too so that the elves who work on the 50-foot Santa float for instance, make all their movements to appropriate sound. In order to give this particular display a lifelike appearance, an extension has been added to the exhaust pipe which comes up through a hearth in the center of the float and belches real smoke, made by adding casite to the motor fuel. Matlock intends to renovate his floats annually and he starts work on them right after Christmas. "It's always December," he moans. "I'm so busy that I'm still sporting the haircut I got last September."



FLOATS *such as this, inspired by popular stories, are designed by Matlock.*

BEN MATLOCK: *Santa's agent.*

Parades and animated figures are nothing new for this Windsorite. For 14 years he was head animator of parades for a department store in Detroit, and he still gets ribbed about the mechanical cow he built for a Windsor dairy.

"I've been doodling ever since I was a kid in Leamington," says Matlock, who with his family lives in a house adjoining his workshop. "Give me a piece of paper and the first thing I do is draw a screwy design."

To get ideas for his floats he makes up nursery rhymes. Then he draws what he thinks are the types of characters necessary to portray his thoughts. He also has what is probably the most complete library of fairy tale books in Canada.

After he gets an idea on paper he makes a model of it and the production department takes it from there. The figure is made up of chickenwire, and the frame is covered with latex—a form of workable rubber.

After that, voluminous quantities of paint are added and the character is finished except for mounting on the float and given animation. For example, one display is a replica of a Viking ship and this floats up and down on a sea of blue canvas. A hidden loudspeaker plays nautical music.

The great armada of floats stands around Matlocks' 3½ acre property most of the year. "I think that my two youngsters get more fun out of my job than anyone else," say Matlock. "For them it is always Christmas—but I can't escape it either. Because I'm always haunted by Christmas future."

—NFB

CAROLLERS *herald the opening of the Coventry Cycle mystery revised and presented by Playwright Robertson Davies (left,) in Peterborough, Ont.*

—NFB

ADORATION *of the Magi in the Peterborough mystery. Since play called for a church setting in medieval times there is little or no problem in staging.*

"CHRISTUS NATUS EST..."

by Rev. J. Donald L. Howson

HOLY FAMILY *in the New Play Society's Wakefield Cycle Mystery in Toronto. Joseph is played by CBC Wednesday Night's Larry Henderson.*

—W. O. Crompton

THIS is the time of year when hundreds of people will fill theatres, churches and town halls to witness the dramatization of the Birth of Christ. From Halifax to Vancouver there has been an increase in the popularity of religious drama and it seems that the Santa Claus parade is no longer the only Yuletide attraction in the modern world.

Three years ago the New Play Society in Toronto gave its first annual presentation of a series of mystery plays (from the Wakefield cycle) and included the old story of the three shepherds and the sheep-stealer "Mak". Mak steals a sheep, takes it home and lays it in the cradle so that when the angry shepherds come to his house to claim their own they are momentarily duped. This play is significant in that it shows that piety, the theatre and fun were not strange bedfellows in medieval days and that the reverence of the worshippers was not endangered by the introduction into the Christ story of a little honest slapstick.

Another annual revival of an old mystery play (from the Coventry cycle) is done in Peterborough, Ont. by Robertson Davies and his revised version was also done in St. Simon's Presbyterian Church, Fredericton with a cast drawn largely from the faculty and student body of the University of New Brunswick.

The upsurge in religious drama is an encouraging aspect of our cultural life whether one views it from the religious or from the dramatic point of view. It is to be hoped that the revival will not confine itself to the depiction only of the Birth of Christ. At a very early period—certainly by the fifth century AD—it was usual on special occasions to increase the dramatic elements of worship by presenting living pictures, illustrating the Old Testament and Gospel narratives. Around the ninth century the idea became popular of introducing short songs into the offices of the Church with words apportioned to two or more characters. Since the masses were uneducated and illiterate the impact of the old stories was brought home by means of an increasing use of living pictures and pageants.

With the increasing popularity of these liturgical dramas many of the people became filled with the desire to act the stories of the faith. By the eleventh century the custom of presenting "plays of the people" was prevalent and the productions were done

PLAYERS *in the Coventry mystery presented in the author's church, St. Simon's, Fredericton, are drawn from the University of New Brunswick.*

in the native tongue. This was the beginning of the Mystery plays, their purpose being to set forth the central mystery of the Redemption of the World as accomplished by the Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection. From there it was but a step to the Miracle plays about the saints and to allegorical plays to illustrate the practical application of the Christian faith in individual lives. These were undertaken by the Guilds and each Guild had one of a series which they presented on wagons drawn from station to station in the towns, during religious festivals such as Whitsunday or Lammas Tide. About 1400 or so there were half a dozen cycles in England and these depicted the whole course of religion from Creation to Judgment.

Contemporary religious drama, however, is in a somewhat different position: in the Middle Ages, religious drama was the only drama. Now it is but one of many and while every attempt is made to give the revivals of the Miracle and Mystery intelligibility and appeal to the modern mind they remain essentially medieval in spirit and outlook. A number of attempts have been made to write contemporary religious drama which embodies the qualities of modern secular drama.

PANTOMIMES *are also a Yuletide custom. The costume design for the Winnipeg Ballet's version of Thackeray's "The Rose and The Ring" was done by Madame Pauline Boutal.*

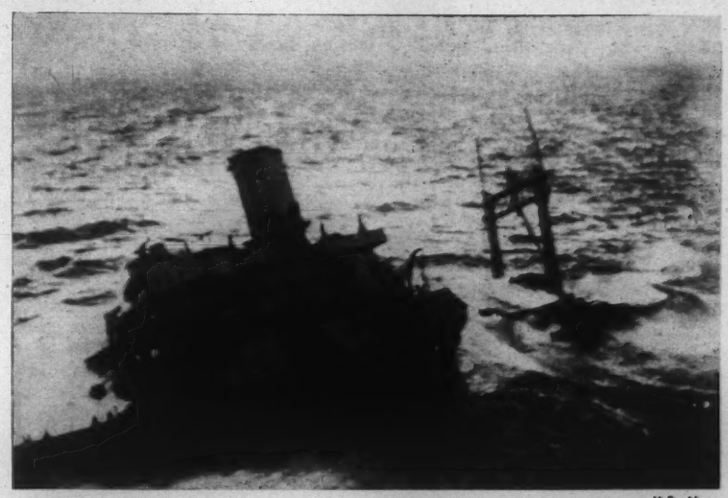
The Canterbury festival of Worship and Art has indicated that there is an awareness of its value. Written for this festival, T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" and Dorothy Sayers' "The Zeal of Thy House" are fine plays by any standards. These are steps in the right direction but what those who are interested in religious drama must do is to create plays which fulfil the needs of the public of our day. Lister Sinclair's "The Man in the Blue Moon," while scarcely pure religious drama and possessing many flaws is suggestive of this aim.

Medieval drama had the qualities of life and spirit because it ministered to those needs. To the medieval mind it bore the same naive appeal that the many children's pantomimes, which are also a feature of this season all over Canada, have for their young spectators. If something of this is injected into the present trickle of religious drama, there is every reason to believe that that trickle will become a freshly flowing, widely visited stream.

The Truxton and the Pollux

A Story of St. Lawrence, Nfld. And How Two Shipwrecks Become a Hospital

by William Hogg



—U.S. Navy

DYING *Pollux heels over. 203 American sailors were lost in icy waters.*

UNTIL RECENT YEARS — before international fame came to St. Lawrence, Newfoundland—it was only a fishing village. Before fluorspar mining became their chief occupation, its sturdy men and women wrested a precarious living from the sea. More than one St. Lawrence man was lost in the storms that lash the coast.

For these seven years, St. Lawrence has waited for a hospital. In the fluorspar mines — hard-rock-mining with all its risk, 600 to 700 feet underground—there have been one or two serious accidents over the years. There are the usual run of minor accidents requiring medical and sometimes hospital care, and for these there is a resident doctor at St. Lawrence, and a hospital 15 miles away.

A hospital, it was said, would ease the minds of the miners whose families are virtually isolated during the winter months, and who shudder to think of their wives or children in need of hospital care when the highway is closed in from November until around the middle of May. How St. Lawrence got a hospital is a story which has tragedy, danger and a little honest heroism: it's really the story of a shipwreck.

In outline, the story of the wreck of the Truxton and Pollux has had much telling: how the two American ships—the overage destroyer and the freighter Pollux—were part of a convoy heading across Placentia Bay for the American naval base at Argentia and how they went on the rocks.

But the amazing details of individual heroism, obscured by wartime secrecy, are not so well known. You can find them in the pages of an official report made by H. W. Quinton, who was appointed investigating magistrate and who is now Minister of Finance in the Nfld. Government.

The destroyer Truxton was wrecked at 4.30 a.m., February 18, 1942, in Chambers Cove, which is dominated by a headland known as Chambers Points. The Truxton struck between two small islands in the centre of the cove. The freighter foundered later that day, and of the 442 men aboard —young American navy men—203 were lost and about 239 were saved.

Magistrate Quinton put down a vivid word-picture of the scene:—

"There are no inhabitants of Chambers Cove, consequently the news of the stranding [of the Truxton] did not reach St. Lawrence until four hours afterwards. Since there are no eyewitnesses of what happened between the time of stranding and daylight, it is presumed that most of the men were clinging to their ship during those hours.

"Because of an offshore wind, the sea at that time was fairly smooth, and some time after dawn broke four men of the Truxton reached the shore by means of a raft. While three of them remained exhausted at the top of the cliff, the other managed to reach Ironsprings Mine and there communicated the news of the stranding to the miners at about 8.30 a.m. on Feb. 18.

"About one half of the members of the company of the U.S. Destroyer Truxton was thrown or swept into the sea by the time the first rescuers arrived at the top of the cliff at Chambers Cove. The other half were still clinging desperately to the wreck over which wild seas were sweeping by now. One half of the ship had broken off and become partially submerged, and from this section the fuel oil from the ship's tanks had poured out and spread over the waters of the cove.

"Many men, strong swimmers as they were, found themselves helpless when they reached this thick blanket of oil in their shorewards swim. Many of them who lost their lives were smothered and blinded in this oily water near the shore.

Fruits of Labor

"Meanwhile the rescuers on the cliff tops prepared ropes and lowered each other in turn, over the cliffs to bring up the survivors. Numbers of men also stationed themselves on the beaches below the cliffs to help the wrecked seamen ashore. 43 men were brought out of the jaws of death." Most of those lost were dragged down by fuel oil congealed on their lifejackets into a huge blob so heavy that it sometimes took eight men to drag survivors or bodies up the cliffside.

Looking back on it now, the people of St. Lawrence remember the wreck of the Truxton and the Pollux, and how the entire village and the inhabitants of the nearby community of Lawn turned out to the rescue. But all seem mildly surprised that their village should be internationally known for what the late President Roosevelt called their "magnificent and courageous work."

Not only did Mr. Roosevelt acknowledge publicly their courage and sacrifice, but in spite of wartime distractions, he personally recommended to Congress that a suitable memorial should be built in the Newfoundland village to express appreciation "of your heroic action which is typical of the history of your proud sea-faring community."

This month, more than seven years after receiving the late president's recommendation, Congress gave the proposal its blessing. On October 17, the Senate passed and sent to the White House a resolution to build and present to the people of St. Lawrence: one hospital at a cost of $375,000.

—A. A. Gloveaud

SLEEPY *fishing village, St. Lawrence, turned out in force for heroic task.*

WILLIAM HOGG *is on the CBC news staff.*

Churchill's Daughter

by Margaret E. Ness

"CHARMING" was the word most frequently used to describe Sarah Churchill last Spring when she flew over from Britain for the Byline Ball, staged by the Toronto Women's and Men's Press Clubs. One feminine columnist even complimented Papa Winston on Sarah's good manners.

In this age of self-interest and push, it is refreshing to meet someone like Sarah Churchill. She has a quiet friendliness, no airs, no temperament. SN met her again this summer at a Cape Cod playhouse, playing in the "The Philadelphia Story"— now on tour. "How nice to see you," was all she said but with warmth and sincerity. She chatted about the Ball; actually remembered unimportant bits of information about the Clubs — no perfunctory interest there.

—Vandamm
SARAH CHURCHILL

During the "props" rehearsal (she and co-star Jeffrey Lynn had just arrived), she suggested a few position changes: asked the director what he thought. You could see him relaxing. He knew then he wasn't going to have to deal with an autocratic star.

Sarah is thoughtful of others. It's a rare gift that ought to be more generally cultivated. She knows that her Churchill name brings more publicity to her than to Jeffrey Lynn. She can't change that. But she does see that they have separate press interviews so that Lynn isn't overshadowed.

Just recently Sarah was married to handsome British photographer Antony Beauchamp. SN met him when he flew up to join Sarah during the week "The Philadelphia Story" played Toronto. He's nice enough for Sarah: that says a lot.

The Churchill name has been a serious handicap to Sarah the actress. Winston Churchill's name always crops up wherever Sarah goes. "Daughter of Winston" is almost a tag. Sarah attempted to get away from the name once. She tried out for a Cochran chorus line under an assumed name, only to be called by her right name. The story circulates that she asked her father whether or not she should take another name and he replied that he could manage to bear up under anything she did.

And the latest Winston story is a delightful one. Seems Canadian Margaret Bannerman, playing Sarah's mother in the play, has a line in which she says to Sarah, "I received a simple statement from your father". In a first New York rehearsal, Miss Bannerman could not resist a *sotto voce* ad lib and followed the line with "Blood, Sweat and Tears." Needless to say it broke up the rehearsal.

The late Philip Barry was most enthusiastic about Miss Churchill in the role he wrote for Katharine Hepburn.

Man of Letters

A Talk with Professor E. K. Brown And Some Facts about the State Of the Nation's Fiction.

by Melwyn Breen

THOSE who define a university lecture as a mechanical process whereby the content of a professor's notebook is transferred to that of a student without going through the mind of either, have never been exposed to the mind and imagination of a scholar as fine as Professor E. K. Brown. The incumbent last month of University College's sober Alexander Foundation lectures in English literature, Dr. Brown has been responsible for the opening of many literary vistas to hundreds of Canadian scholars.

The Alexander Foundation lectures are given each year in tribute to Professor W. J. Alexander, first Professor of English at University College of the University of Toronto. Professor Alexander occupied the chair of English from 1889 to 1926 and in 1929 the Foundation was set up to invite outstanding men of English letters to speak to the student body on some subject within the field. Among those invited to the University as Alexander lecturers have been Stoll and Harrison, the Shakespeare men, the late Professor Irving Babbitt of Harvard and the late Professor G. G. Sedgewick, UBC's beloved Professor of English and Head of the Department. Dr. Brown is unique among the succession of brilliant men who have undertaken the series in that he is the first actual student of Professor Alexander to be invited.

Richardson to Malraux

Edward Killoran Brown is a graduate of the University of Toronto (BA) and the University of Paris (*Docteur-ès-Lettres*). In 1929 he was lecturer in English at University College, in 1931, Assistant Professor. In 1935 he went to the University of Manitoba as Professor of English and Head of the Department, then returned to UC in 1938 as a full professor. He was Professor of English and Head of the Department at Cornell from 1941 to 1944 and is now Professor of English at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Brown's subject for the Alexander lectures was "Rhythm in the Novel," and though it was tough sledding for the unalert, Hart House Theatre was packed for the four lectures it took to cover his thoughts on the subject. It centred on the works of E. M. Forster. The final lecture, on Forster's "A Passage to India," was delivered to a throng that overflowed into the theatre lobby. The text of his lectures will be published by the University of Toronto Press early in the new year.

Dr. Brown delivered his lectures with the emphatic force of plain terms. He eschewed tricks of rhetoric and furbelows of euphuism, and spoke from a sure grasp of a subject he knows thoroughly from Richardson to Malraux. His themes were rich with literary allusions and thus were a joy to the enquiring mind. His platform delivery is businesslike and firm but his private conversation is relaxed and no less free-flowing. Both his lectures and his conversation represent the mind of a man at ease with even the ultimate difficulties of the written word.

It was in this relaxed manner that Dr. Brown had some private words to say to SATURDAY NIGHT about the state of the nation's fiction. Deep in an easy chair in Hart House's staid Senior Common Room, he listed what he considers to be the three main obstacles in the way of the development of our literature. These are: the scarcity of retail outlets where books can be bought or even examined; the scarcity of unbiased criticism; and the self-defeating attitude of the writers themselves.

"There was a time," he says, "when the cities were filled with bookstores

—Gordon Jarrett
PROFESSOR E. K. BROWN

dealing in new and used books, where you went to browse and where the buying of books was a matter of course. Now what do you see? In place of the secondhand books there are greeting cards, and somewhere between the perfume and the chinaware there may be a shelf of books—mainly for the pocket." So much for the state of bookselling in the cities; in the smaller communities, he points out, there are very few bookstores of *any* kind. "How many people order books directly from a publisher or even from a department store catalogue? No, the public has to see the book before it can be persuaded to buy."

The second problem—the problem of unbiased criticism—is virtually the ancient struggle between Town and Gown. "There are two types of criticism going on in Canada: newspaper and academic. The newspapermen seem to have chips on their shoulders—if a book is written by an academician that seems to be enough to condemn it before the paper is off the outside. Take the case of Barker Fairley's first book on Goethe—came out in 1932. A Toronto critic—who ought to know better—gave it quite a raking although he showed a rather embarrassing unfamiliarity with the subject of Professor Fairley's book."

On the other hand, Dr. Brown pointed out, the academicians are not entirely blameless. "There's a supercilious or patronizing air often detectable in academic appraisals of Canadian work because it *is* Canadian. Surely there is some common objective ground on which the two camps can approach Canadian work without sacrificing principles."

The Third Strike

The third problem is the attitude of Canadian writers towards their craft. "The first question a would-be writer seems to ask a practising writer or an editor or a publisher is: how do I go about *marketing* my stuff? It's not very often you can find a writer willing to discuss the techniques and problems connected with writing. Most of the time the attitude seems to be: just where can I make money and where can I make it *fast*? Of course, the answer is that if that is the purpose of turning one's hand to writing one is very obviously in the wrong business."

Dr. Brown also hit at the Canadian publisher who refuses to take a chance on Canadian work. "The way things stand," he observes, "a Canadian author is advised to submit his manuscript to an American firm. If it's accepted and published in the States it will get just as big a sale in Canada as it would if it were published here." However, he points out that the Canadian publisher is a much-maligned creature seen as an ogre deliberately dedicated to the stamping out of Canadian effort. "Writers are not supposed to understand the intricacies of marketing. All they understand is that the budget for advertising which the publisher has set aside seems calculated to force his work into the literary sea with a quite soundless splash."

In 1943 Dr. Brown published a very useful little book entitled "On Canadian Poetry," which serves as a handbook and introduction to the field. When asked if he planned to give us a book "On the Canadian Novel" he said, "I had hoped when I did that book that there might be a series of them covering the arts in Canada—you know: 'On Canadian Sculpture,' 'On Canadian Painting,' 'On Canadian Music' and so on. And I certainly hoped there'd be one on Canadian fiction. I don't suppose I'll ever find the time to tackle the problem myself: perhaps someone can persuade Professor McGillivray of the *University of Toronto Quarterly* to take it on. I think a series like that might do a great deal of good in showing Canadian artists—and the public—just what has been done and it would also show what there is still to *be* done. Come to think of it—you could have an *annual* series."

national round-up

Canada:

BRITISH BLOW

THOUGH there had been signs it would happen, Canadians as a whole, and Canadian farmers especially were shocked by last week's news that Britain would not renew the food contracts for 1950.

Food products have long been Canada's largest exports and biggest producer of national income, and Britain has been the largest market. If food exports were cut off, or nearly cut off, the effects would be seen in unemployment in the cities as well as on the farms, since the farm population is ordinarily the largest group buyer of Canadian manufactured goods. But surpluses would not be an active problem until 1950 crops were harvested, and Canada thus had time to consider. See also BUSINESS ANGLE, page 33, and THE ECONOMY, page 34.

■ W. Arthur Irwin, 51, Editor of Maclean's Magazine, is to succeed Ross McLean as Film Commissioner of the National Film Board early in January. Mr. Irwin was born at Ayr, Ont., attended the Universities of Manitoba and Toronto, served overseas in World War I, became a reporter for the *Mail and Empire* in 1920 and a feature writer for *The Globe*, Toronto, 1923-25, when he joined Maclean's.

British Columbia:

FOREIGN BOTTOMS

CARGOES from West Coast ports will be carried in more foreign bottoms next year. As a result of the Government's new shipping policy, it is expected that two-thirds or more of the 18 ships that regularly operate out of Vancouver and Victoria will soon be transferred to foreign registry or tied up in port.

Reason for the paring of the deep-sea fleet is the announcement that the shipping subsidy will operate next year on a cut-down basis. Only about 40 of Canada's 118 ships will receive the $3,000,000 bonus. The rest of the shipping will be sold to other countries.

Federal Government spokesmen explained that in the event of war, Canada would depend heavily on a proposed allied defence shipping pool. Shipping men were caught flat-footed by the news, and could not predict the volume of business their lines would carry in 1950.

Typical were the remarks of John Rosene, President of Western Canada Steamships, Ltd., largest Vancouver operator: "We're just sitting tight until we get some details."

For others the details would be painful. With the Canadian deepsea fleet cut by at least two-thirds, several hundred seamen would have to find new jobs ashore.

Manitoba:

FOR CITY SLICKERS

AFTER consulting his caucus, Premier Campbell has decided the Province will not enter the rent control field and has so informed Mr. Abbott. "The Manitoba government," he said in a letter to the Finance Minister, "has not changed its view that wartime rent control, and consequently de-control, should be completed by those authorities who have the experience and knowledge as well as staff to complete the process in an orderly manner."

Mr. Campbell's decision followed a caucus of new MLA's and also discussion of the problem by the Provincial Cabinet. The rural members, perhaps because there is no rental control problem in their territories, were not in favor of entering the field and one declared himself in favor of high rents because "country boys would not be so tempted to come into the city."

HEALTH NOTE

WHILE Mr. Campbell was refusing to go into the rental business, civic authorities were refusing to enter further into public health. Establishment of a public diagnostic service in Winnipeg under the Manitoba Health Service Act was "neither feasible nor desirable," the city health committee has decided.

The committee's report pointed to the high cost to the city of such a service—an estimated $216,000 based on a population of 235,000; and also referred to existing diagnostic facilities which are already provided for 55,000 Winnipegers under the Manitoba Medical Health services and more restricted facilities provided another 150,000 under the Manitoba Health services plan.

Alberta:

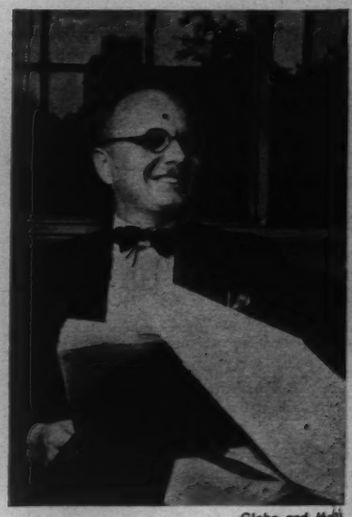
AN OPEN DOOR

THE IDEA of a closed shop for farmers is being pushed in Alberta; but present evidence is that the independent Alberta farmer, especially in the southern half of the Province, wants no part of it.

The idea came from Farmers' Union of Alberta, a fairly new organization which grew out of two older ones — the once-powerful United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farmers' Union. The FUA's original proposal was that membership in the Union should be made compulsory for all farmers in the Province and that dues should be collected by municipal districts through the tax-rolls.

Later, this was whittled down to a suggestion merely that the municipal districts should collect dues along with local taxes, and that farmers should be left free to "contract out" of membership by writing a letter once a year. This proposal was adopted by a slender majority at the FUA's convention this month.

The unofficial reaction of farmers was swift and pointed. Of 117 farmers polled by *The Calgary Herald*, 106, including 38 out of 39 members of the FUA who were questioned — condemned the whole idea. "Stalin is in Russia," said one non-member farmer. "Let's keep him there."



—Globe and Mail

Film Commissioner IRWIN

Ontario:

LET THE BUYER . . . ?

HOW FAR should government go in protection of the individual?

That was the Ontario Government's main worry in housing last week.

The unhappy fact that many people buy houses as casually as they do an ice cream cone had the Government in a quandary.

A few months ago in the Toronto suburbs an 84-home housing project known as "Pelmo Park" collapsed.

With only 6 houses completed the project went broke. Buyers lost $93,500 in down payments.

A Government appointed commissioner, Judge Ian Macdonnell, reported last week (in a 92-page finding) doubt whether anything could be salvaged through bankruptcy proceedings.

No criminal proceedings were recommended. The blame was put on inexperience and over-selling.

These were all indications that the frame if not the foundation of the frenzied postwar housing boom was shaky in spots.

But what to do?

Premier Frost who is essentially a free enterpriser doesn't believe in tying any strings on the construction industry that aren't absolutely necessary.

Judge Macdonnell didn't call for any definite Government regulation, except for tightening up present Mechanics' Lien Act and Real Estate and Business Brokers' Act incidental stipulations. He definitely said it would be a "dangerous precedent" for the Government to reimburse the Pelmo Park victims.

But Opposition Leader E. B. Jolliffe was calling for a Housing Com-

—CP

COMMONS AT WORK.—*Here is the House of Commons hard at work during its recent session. Along the left side of the chamber is the solid block of Liberal members with Prime Minister St. Laurent sitting opposite the centre table in the middle of the House. The overflow Liberal members sit in the upper-right-hand corner, on the left of Speaker Ross MacDonald. George Drew, leader of the opposition, sits across from the Prime Minister, and towards the camera from the Progressive Conservatives are the C.C.F. and Social Credit Groups.*

mission. In the press there had been suggestions that housing contractors come under provincial licence. And generally pressure was on the government to do something.

Mr. Frost, who doesn't believe in jerry-building, by government or anyone else, however, was taking his time. He was considering what was to be done.

New Brunswick:

NOISY OYSTERS

NEW BRUNSWICK today is Canada's leading oyster-producing province, having taken over the leadership held so many years by Prince Edward Island. A "crop" worth more than a quarter of a million dollars, and amounting to more than 7,000,000 pounds, is being harvested this year on the northern and eastern shoreline.

Market observers predict that with continued intelligent management, this phase of the New Brunswick fishing industry could be increased tenfold in value.

They base this view on the fact that a large percentage of the harvest comes not from public oyster beds, accessible to all fishermen, but from private oyster "farms" cultivated on scientific lines.

As an illustration of what can be done, they point to enterprising Sam Andrews of Upper Shippegan, NB, who operates three seafood restaurants in Montreal and thus has a steady market for the oyster yield from his 25-acre under-water farm in Shippegan Bay. He acquired an interest in oyster-breeding years ago when he was an employee of the Algonquin Hotel at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, on New Brunswick's south coast, and learned from the fisheries biological station there how oyster production can be managed and multiplied.

LIMELIGHT

EXTENSIVE deposits of limestone underlie New Brunswick's soil. Several quarrying firms market the stone as agricultural crop-land conditioner and for use by pulp mills and other industries. Only a small fraction of the limestone resources has been exploited, however, because local demand is limited and the product is too heavy to be moved long distances by rail.

Now a promising new export outlet is in sight. Boston sources say arrangements are nearly complete for a $230,000,000 steel mill to be established in New England and fed by Labrador iron ore transported by water from Seven Islands, Que. This mill plans to use New Brunswick limestone as "flux"; in the steel-making process, limestone mixes with the impure ingredients in the raw molten steel and forms a slag which sinks to the bottom of the tank, permitting the pure steel to be run off.

The reason the new mill is looking to New Brunswick, provincial mining officials say, is that abundant limestone of suitable chemical content is located close to year-around shipping facilities at the Port of Saint John, whence cargoes of broken-up rock can be moved cheaply by water to New England.

A SENSITIVE FINGER *and a critical eye guide Montreal and New York buyers at Hudson's Bay Co.'s first fur auction in Canada. Sales of $750,000 were registered. Montreal may soon become the world fur trading centre.*

Saskatchewan:

RUMBLES FROM THE LOBBY

WHILE Ottawa struggled with 1950 food contracts with Britain and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture wrestled with problems of production and markets, Walter Tucker, Saskatchewan Liberal leader, last week advocated the lifting of all tariffs against British goods.

—Chambers in The Halifax Chronicle-Herald
TOO DEEPLY ROOTED

Immediately, he received support from the recently organized Saskatchewan Farmers Union, headed by J. L. Phelps, a former CCF cabinet minister. Phelps said Saskatchewan Farmers would have to ask the Dominion to declare the prairies a free trading area and the port of Churchill a free port of entry for British goods, destined for the prairie market. This was the first manifestation by Phelps and the SFU of the union's readiness to carry out its expressed intention of acting as a pressure group on behalf of farmers of the province.

Tucker's advocacy of the lifting of trade barriers was made in an address at the town of Milestone, south of Regina, at a Liberal meeting. He said it was essential that some nation take the lead to avert a collapse of the economy of the western democracies.

Quebec:

A RAISED EYEBROW

THERE were no candles on the auctioneer's table, as had been in Galloway's Coffee House in London 280 years ago. But the buyers' interest in the furs offered for sale was just as intense and their means of bidding just as subtle—a raised eyebrow here, a twitching nose there.

By nightfall, as the 100-odd buyers from all parts of Canada and the United States headed for home, the Hudson's Bay Company had passed an important milestone: it had held its first fur auction sale in Canada. No longer will the Company conduct "Private Treaty" sales. Henceforth the pelts will go on the block, and fur buyers predict that within a short time Montreal will be firmly established as one of the world's important fur trading centres.

To open their new three-quarter million dollar building on Dorchester Street, The Bay offered for sale a collection of 40,000 wild and ranch mink pelts. Next month, on January 16, every type of skin will go on the block.

Newfoundland:

SIGN HERE

CHRISTMAS started early for postal officials in Newfoundland—in fact the rush has been on since the first days of confederation in April. Annually at this time of year Newfoundland post offices expect and get additional work, but during the past seven or eight months it has been hectic. Now, because of the tremendous mail order business being done by Canadian leading "catalogue" firms, mail has increased four-fold and where 10,000 bags of packages and mail were coming to the island monthly, the ratio has been upped to 40,000. It is too early to say if local business has been hard hit and until balance sheets are drawn up for the year's operations Newfoundland businessmen must wait the final result. They have been losing trade via the mailman, they claim, but whether there will be a reaction to this type of buying next year only time can tell.

On mail days in various communities women and children go to the post offices and come out carrying buckets just arrived or wheeling a pram or lugging some unwieldy article even too large for a mail bag. Businessmen claim that the same goods are available right in the community at not much higher prices. Probably the novelty of obtaining an article for its exact catalogue price has had some effect on the buying populace.

ON THE CUFF

THE FIRST Newfoundland provincial House of Assembly has prorogued after passing 46 pieces of legislation. This is an exceptional achievement seeing the session did not convene until July 13. Before leaving for their homes, however, the legislators did not play Santa Claus to the voters. Promised for 1950 were a budget deficit and several new taxes including a 3 per cent sales tax. The deficit is scheduled to amount to just over $2 million by the end of the fiscal year (March 31). Oddly enough, Finance Minister Quinton made no reference to new taxes in his budget but introduced the additional levies a few days later. In the first year of being a partner in the Canadian union, Newfoundland has very little to boast about, except of course the new and improved social services that have been introduced since April 1. So far, Newfoundlanders claim, the benefits have not outweighed in cash value the revenues the island has lost or will be losing.

■ Over 5,400 big game licences and 4,800 licences to kill beaver have been issued by the Newfoundland Game and Inland Fisheries Division of the local Department of Natural Resources. Reports from hunters indicate that moose are plentiful and the kill will be higher than last year. Hunters are concentrating, it seems, on moose as they provide more meat than caribou and are easier to hunt. Last year the kill of moose in Newfoundland and totalled 2,000 and 400 caribou.

—CP

NEW ENVOY. *David M. Johnson, acting High Commissioner in Ireland, who has been appointed Canada's first High Commissioner to Pakistan.*

world affairs

DEFIANCE IN JERUSALEM

ADMITTED that the world would be a sorrier place if all who support "lost" causes abandoned them, should the UN make decisions divorced from all practical considerations, as it has done from the beginning on the Palestine question and has now done on Jerusalem?

The division of Palestine into six pieces in the original partition "plan" of two years ago was impractical enough in itself. The pair of three-piece states could only have lived together with the utmost of goodwill, and if such goodwill existed there was no need for partition at all. But it was the lack of goodwill, indeed the existence of extreme animosity between Palestinian Jew and Arab, which had brought the problem to the UN.

Without the organs of enforcement which the Charter had provided but which have never materialized, the UN was impotent to implement its partition plan. This was a kind of plan which no practical political leader would have dreamed of producing for his home state if he did not believe it to be acceptable to the majority of those affected, and have a police force or army to impose it on the minority. Yet it was proposed for Palestine, with the Arab majority strenuously opposed to it and many Jews accepting it as only a first instalment towards broader aims, and without any organ of enforcement. The UN courted defiance, and it got it.

Did It All Over Again

The lesson should have been salutary. Either the same thing should not have been attempted again, or power of enforcement should have been provided before it was attempted. But the UN has now done it all over again, with its "decision" to internationalize Jerusalem.

This may testify to the very special place which Jerusalem holds in the minds and hearts of hundreds of millions of people all over the world, as the Holy City of Jew and Christian, and the second holiest Moslem center though it was the vote of the Soviet bloc, scarcely animated by religious feeling, which carried the proposal.

It is often said that, lacking any power of enforcement, the UN can only serve as the conscience of mankind. As an expression of conscience, the proposal to internationalize a city holy to religious groups spread all over the world is wholly admirable. If it could be left at that, an affirmation that people in a majority of the nations want an international Jerusalem, no harm would be done, but rather good.

Conscience And Politics

Immediately, however, it is the political considerations, unconsidered in the making of the proposal, which dominate the scene. The UN is defied. Its prestige has been severely damaged again. Its influence will be less in future cases which come before it: such as the settlement of the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir. If that is so, and it undoubtedly is, then the UN should not have produced a verdict of conscience instead of a political plan for internationalizing Jerusalem.

The UN will come badly out of the Jerusalem affair. But so will the Israeli. They may claim that they built the basis of their state by their own hard work, and defended it and added to it by their arms and courage. But the fact remains that their state was launched by the United Nations Partition Plan and gained world-wide recognition because it had been sanctioned by the UN; and in the beginning, the Israeli accepted the UN plan as the basis of their state.

Their seizure of large additional areas, including Jerusalem, is not going to bring them goodwill or respect, however much their motives and their position may be understood. In all the discussion of partition, they pressed their claim before the UN and world opinion on moral grounds. It is now abundantly clear that these moral arguments have been superseded by political and nationalistic ones.

The political seizure of Jerusalem, confirming the earlier military seizure, may only produce a varying degree of ill-will throughout the Christian world. In the Middle East, it will intensify the animosity between Israel and the Arab world, and between Abdullah's Kingdom of Jordan, which appears to have made a deal with the Israeli on Jerusalem, and the other Arab states, which led the campaign for the Holy City's internationalization.

Abdullah, according to report, is biding his time to set up his own capital in the Old City of Jerusalem. Whether he moves there from Amman or not, he probably will receive strong advice from London and Washington to seek world goodwill by offering to accept at least a United Nations Commission to supervise the main holy sites in the Old City. If the Israeli then made the same offer concerning individual sites in the New City and in Bethlehem, a passable solution might be achieved.—*Willson Woodside*

—Keren Hayesod, Jerusalem

NEW CROWN OF THORNS *for Jerusalem: Looking from the Jewish side of the barbed-wire border to the Tower of David in the Old City, held by the Arabs.*

—Paul Duval, for Saturday Night

THE LOCUSTS RETURN

WE HAVE had our experience in this country with locusts—known more descriptively as grasshoppers—but in the area where they gained their Biblical fame, locust swarms reach such proportions that one crossing the Red Sea 60 years ago was estimated to be some 2,000 square miles in extent.

Now twelve locust swarms have been reported crossing Pakistan on the way to Southern Persia and Oman, their favorite breeding ground in the nearest corner of Arabia. Our special correspondent O. M. Green reports that the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London has gone into action, alerting the British Desert Locust Survey, to fight the plague lest it spread into the Middle East or down the African coast into Kenya, and then back to India in force.

None of these 12 swarms was very big, Green is informed by Dr. B. P. Uvarov, of the Natural History Museum in London, the world's greatest authority on locusts. Each one might measure half-an-acre in size or even less. But a locust begins to breed at the age of six weeks, and the nymph (or female) lays 100 eggs at a time, of which about 90 come to maturity. In Cyprus in 1881 no less than 1,300 tons of egg masses were dug up and destroyed.

The Desert Locust Patrol

Locusts breed, of course, in many parts of the world from America to New Zealand. But there is no worse starting-point for them than the desert spaces of Rajputana in India, and across the border in Pakistan. They begin breeding as soon as the monsoon stops, and conditions have been more than usually favorable for them.

In July and August this fact was pressed upon the Indian Government's notice in New Delhi. But, for economy reasons, preventive measures, though their cost then would have been small, were neglected; and Indian-Pakistan cooperation was lacking.

In Oman, now regarded as the crucial area, a vigorous campaign has been begun by the British Desert Locust Survey. There are many ways of fighting locusts. Aeroplanes are used only against big swarms actually on the move. For these, too, screens are erected, against which the hoppers (the young locusts) bang, to fall into trenches filled with water and kerosene. But the regular day-by-day

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methods of the Desert Survey are dusting, spraying and baiting with poisoned grain, performed by mechanized vehicles, camels and men with spray-tanks on their backs.

Several International Anti-Locust Conferences have been held since 1930. If man is to protect himself against these infernal pests, which can strip a smiling field to bare earth almost in minutes, it must be by the weapons of active international collaboration.

A BLURRED PICTURE

IN ATTEMPTING his "political biography" of Stalin, Isaac Deutscher has completed an immense and competent work which will please no one, except perhaps the Trotskyite Communist faction with which he was connected for many years in Poland before the war, and before becoming an editor of the London *Economist*.

By repeating what Trotsky and other opponents said of the seamy side of Stalin's character, even while commenting that "it is impossible to say how much truth or invention there is in such stories (of victimizing innocent comrades in prison 40 years ago)" the author will earn no gratitude in the Kremlin. By passing over the monstrous development of slave labor under Stalin in a single paragraph, as a "dark blot," true, but one due merely to the fact that "amid the famine and misery of the early thirties the provisions for their protection were completely disregarded," he will not win the confidence of the protagonists of freedom.

Elsewhere in the book ("Stalin", by Isaac Deutscher. Oxford, $5.50) he excuses "the tyranny of Stalin" with

"his progressive social performance"; the "bloody cataclysm" of the war against the peasants by the "overwhelming pressure of events." This tyrant, master of twelve to fourteen million pitiable slaves in his forced labor camps, is credited with having placed the "emphasis on *habeas corpus* and the rule of law," and lifted "a nation of savages," "encouraged and fostered every interest in what he calls the cultural heritage of the West," and accomplished in twenty years "the work of twenty generations."

Because of this attitude of the author the chief value of the book is confined to its detailed study of how Stalin gained absolute power in the party struggles in the 'twenties.—*W.W.*

CAPITALIST GERMANY

A STUDY which throws a good deal of light on the special interest being shown in the German economy by the Americans, and on the difficulties of integrating it with that of socialist Britain and middle-of-the-road France, as Paul Hoffman has been urging, comes to SATURDAY NIGHT from Peter C. Dobell, a Canadian now at Oxford:

THE GERMAN LEADERS seem almost to wish to out-Herod Herod, in setting in motion an economy freer in many respects than its American model. Their action was deliberate; and the men responsible have shown great faith and a real determination to make their experiment a success.

An experiment it certainly is, and a hazardous one, because over-population, the dearth of housing, shortages of food and raw materials have all put heavy stress on the economy and through it, on the people, many of whom are looking back with envy on the seemingly plentiful pre-war period under Nazi paternalism.

Success in this experiment would give exponents of free enterprise much prestige and new faith. Conversely failure would justify socialists in putting up a strong case for the planned economy.

The control of the internal economy rests entirely in German hands, and control of foreign trade will soon follow. To direct the economy, the government is relying principally on control of note issue and public borrowing through the newly-created German Central Bank. The federal government will not even be able to use the control mechanism of taxation, since under the new constitution, it is the *Laender*, or provincial, governments which have the power to tax incomes. There is supposed to be a controlled price for steel and coal, but in practice it is often disregarded.

Ruhr Ownership Not Settled

Only rents are rigidly stabilized, but this is a municipal concern, made essential by the tremendous shortage of housing. There is also a moratorium on strikes, so that the government is not faced with the inflationary pressure of rising wages.

Several aspects of the economic picture are not as yet clear, in particular the ownership and management of much of the heavy industry. The election of a Christian Democrat—Liberal Coalition, both parties with substantial big business backing, ensures governmental opposition to the decartelization program begun by the Allies.

Although the extent to which German recovery has been supported by the American dollar subsidy under the Marshall Plan, has been hotly debated in Germany, there is no doubt that the free economic policy has achieved notable successes. Foremost was the establishment through Currency Reform in June, 1948 of a strong and dependable currency.

The black market has all but disappeared, restricted now to *underselling* the official price for highly taxed, but otherwise freely-sold lux-

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uries such as real coffee and American cigarettes. Only milk, cheese, butter, fat and sugar are still rationed, and all food is available in quantity. Every sort of luxury article can be bought: caviar, whipped cream, nylon stockings and the best French champagne.

This tremendous transformation has been accomplished by allowing all products to find the price level at which they ration themselves. General shortages have led to a high level of prices in comparison with wage levels. As a result, everyone has had to work to the limit in order to earn enough to live. Laborers have been falling over each other to get overtime work; there has been very little absenteeism and no thought of strikes.

The effect has been to increase the total level of production from 51 per cent of the 1936 level in June, 1948 to 95 per cent in a bare nine months, since it has levelled off.

A Framework of Distress

What makes the German experiment in free enterprise so significant is the framework of economic and social distress and disorganization in which it is taking place. Most explosive and all-pervading of the problems is the much reduced standard of living. The per capita national income in the Western zones is at present only 60 per cent of the 1936 level, as a result of the influx of refugees and the considerable unemployment. The ordinary laborer must pay out 60 per cent of his wages for his family's food.

While wages are only 134 per cent of 1938, prices are on the average twice as high. It seems that the government must adopt some expedient by which public buying power can be expanded.

Unemployment is another serious economic and social problem in Germany. Here the recent increase due to the business recession is only a minor phase. The critical consideration is that, even with full production, the industrial plant is incapable of absorbing the entire working population.

ERP planners have estimated that by 1953 there will be 2,000,000 surplus workers, even if industry is working to capacity. Primarily responsible for this is the influx of 8,000,000 refugees from the East; and their numbers are being augmented constantly by the many thousands entering the Western zones illegally from the East.

Unless the government takes active steps to develop new sources of employment, serious social consequences can be expected. Another reason for anxiety is that the ratio of dependents to employables has so increased due to war casualties that they now represent 56 per cent of the population.

The housing shortage represents the third of the great problems which the Bonn Government must meet. Bombing alone destroyed 3,000,000 single dwelling units in the Western zones.

Since 1947, only 319,044 new rooms have been completed. Very few schools are being rebuilt, either, whereas the seating capacity of movie houses in most cities is now greater than it was before the war. Restaurants and small stores, too, have sprung up in profusion.

Capitalism without Capital

The obvious conclusion is that low-priced houses do not offer the necessary profit to private enterprise for it to undertake, without some form of governmental assistance, the huge task of re-housing the German people. Whatever help the government offers, even if it should only be to launch a big advertising scheme to overcome the German prejudice against pre-fabricated houses which Messerschmidt is anxious to build, it is vital that it be positive and adequate.

Aside from these problems, the Bonn Parliament is faced with the difficulty of finding new investment capital, without which Germany will not be solvent by 1953. Currency reform wiped out all deposits and there has been very little saving since then due to public distrust and high prices. Taxation is already so high, that almost nothing can be counted on from that source. Industries cannot be expected to do much self-investment, since they are without reserves. Insurance companies likewise cannot be counted on, as they are in the same position. In fact, none of the standard sources of funds for investment can be relied on.

These, then, are the interdependent social and economic problems which the new West German government faces. As yet its only positive commitment has been to support the already established free economy. But these are no ordinary problems; no democratic and civilized state has met them before. It is obvious that they lie beyond the scope of free enterprise and something more than *laissez-faire* is evidently necessary. The government will have to face the difficulties honestly and realistically. For if it should fail to take action and try to evade its responsibilities, it will be endangering the development of democracy in Germany, and ultimately the future safety of Western Europe.

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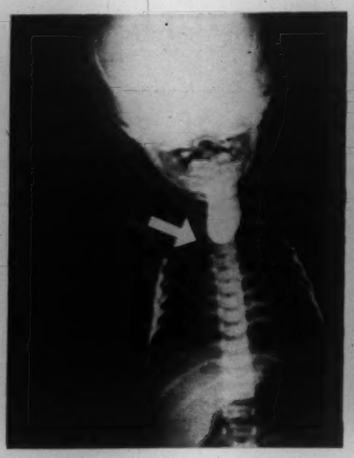
medicine

ATRESIA

SOMEWHERE in Canada on an average of once a month a baby is born which cannot be fed. Though it may seem normal in every other respect, it chokes, turns blue and vomits every time it is given food. Between feedings it drools saliva from its mouth.

Common sense and a minimum of medical knowledge would place the blame on some kind of constriction in the passageway between throat and stomach. In all probability the child is suffering from a condition known as *congenital atresia of the oesophagus.* This condition has always been fatal until now. Now, however,—if diagnosed in time—it can be treated at the Hospital for Sick Children at Toronto, where it has been the subject of special study, so that babies born with the affliction have a chance for quite normal life.

Those babies with this defect have



DEATH *was always inevitable result of an unformed oesophagus (left, arrow). But the defect can now be remedied by means of an operation (right).*

oesophaguses which did not form or open properly but remained closed off at some point along their courses. When the baby tries to swallow food, it backs up into its throat and gets into its windpipe, making the baby choke. Prevented from breathing, the baby turns blue and stays that way until its air passages have cleared by coughing and vomiting. If it were a "blue baby" (from congenital heart disease) it would either be blue all the time or it would become blue on any kind of exertion and not just when it tried to swallow.

But if diagnosed in time, congenital atresia of the oesophagus can be treated. The operation is done through the right side of the baby's back. The second, third and fourth ribs are exposed beside the backbone and about an inch of each rib is removed. The delicate lining of the cavity which contains the right lung is brought into view and gently pushed forward so that the blind end of the part of the oesophagus that leads to the throat, and the upper end of the part that leads to the stomach, both of which are deep in the baby's chest, may be located. These are then gently brought together, the blind ends opened by the surgeon and joined with sutures so that a continuous passageway is restored between the throat and the stomach. As might be imagined, the operation is one of the most difficult and delicate performed in surgery and requires a highly trained operator. Also there are necessary adjuncts for proper pre- and postoperative care.

For one thing it takes more than one operation. The newly repaired oesophagus cannot be used immediately and hence a second, though minor, operation is required to permit the baby to be fed temporarily. So, in the next day or so, an opening is made into the baby's stomach through its abdominal wall so that it may be fed through a tube. This operation may be done with a local anaesthetic. This tube remains until the oesophagus is healed and functioning. The artificial opening into the stomach closes off by itself after the tube has been pulled out.

But how can the diagnosis of this condition be verified? Since the operation has, to date, only been successfully performed in Canada at the Hospital For Sick Children in Toronto, a doctor would hesitate before sending a baby on what might be a long journey without being absolutely sure his diagnosis is correct.

Hit or Miss

Well, there are two ways a diagnosis can be verified: a right one and a wrong one (that is, one that could well lead to complications later). The good way is for the doctor in attendance to attempt to pass a soft rubber tube down the oesophagus. If it meets an obstruction, that's all there is to it. All right then: the way that might lead to complications is to give the baby some barium solution to swallow so that X-rays can be taken. This might result in the baby's getting some of it in his windpipe and then into its lungs. Down there it would act as an irritant and would aid the development of pneumonia which would in turn lessen the chances for a successful operation.

On the other hand, some parents would say, a long trip to a baby that could not swallow food and water might well be fatal. Actually, under modern conditions, it would be practical to send a baby with this condition all the way from Vancouver to Toronto because a great deal can now be done to feed adults and children by means of injections. By making full use of modern methods of interstitial and intravenous feeding a baby that cannot swallow food or water can be sustained over many days.

Now then, the question arises: can a baby really be healthy after an operation as delicate as this? The answer is, yes; the very first patient to be successfully operated on was discharged from the Hospital For Sick Children in six weeks' time and was soon eating right along with the best. There's only one cautionary note: the earlier the diagnosis, the better are the chances for success.

LIFE *of the first patient is normal.*

PREVENTIVE OUNCE

IN THE FOREWORD TO "Public Health in the World Today" by J. S. Simmons (S. J. Reginald Saunders, $6.50) James Bryant Conant, President of Harvard University, observes that to "train enough professionals to keep all the people well by curing disease would involve an expenditure of so large a fraction of the income of any nation as to make the cure less attractive to the taxpayers than the disease. Indeed, if we tried to do the job today without our present knowledge of preventive medicine and public health, the situation would be hopeless."

The book contains 22 chapters written by experts in different fields of public health and includes a consideration of new public health problems in the atomic era. The problems of public health are changing: in 1940 tuberculosis and pneumonia ranked first and second in causing death, in 1946 diseases of the heart, and cancer, have moved to the front. The chapter by Alice Hamilton records the great progress made in preventive measures in the poisonous trades; this progress is due in no small part to her efforts. It is discouraging to read that "prevention of the major psychoses still lies in the realm of conjecture, largely because no specific causes of schizophrenia, paranoia, and manic depressive phychosis have yet been found."

A. W. H.

radio and TV

PROGRESSIVE CKCW

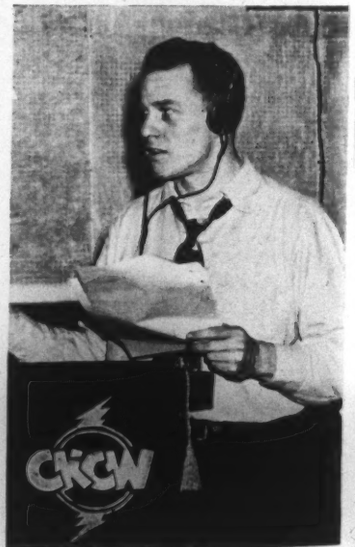
MANY privately owned stations in Canada have been criticized for paying too much heed to the almighty dollar, expressed in advertising revenues, and too little attention to their responsibility to the communities in which they operate. Unfortunately, the accusation is often well founded—but not always.

An example of a private station which has taken its duty seriously is the Moncton, NB, outlet, CKCW. Under the direction of Robert C. Bayley, Supervisor of Music in Moncton schools, CKCW has designed a course in musical appreciation which is broadcast directly into classrooms.

Fourteen weekly broadcasts survey briefly the whole field of music from the point of view of subject-matter: myths in music, nature in music, drama and emotion in music, the dance in music, etc. Each subject is illustrated with selections from the quite-respectable but not-too-difficult classics. The series is aimed at Grade 8 level and is the basis for musical examinations in that grade.

On a somewhat broader level, CKCW has revived the long-dormant Moncton Musical Festival. Since 1947 the major expenses of the Festival have been borne by the station as part of its public-service program. It provides a healthy outlet for local musical talent and affords the community a first-rate annual musical treat. The popularity of the Festival can be gauged by its phenomenally rapid growth: one hall, one adjudicator, 91 classes, 1500 contestants in 1947; two halls, four adjudicators, 141 classes, 3900 contestants in 1949. To encourage contestants with genuine musical talent, CKCW has wangled a number of scholarships which are awarded yearly to top-ranking competitors.

On the drama side, the station's Program Director, Bob Tabor, writes and produces "Studio X", a series of plays in which the supporting roles are taken by actors from Moncton's amateur dramatic groups.



STUDIO X: *Tabor directs the plays.*

theatre

MRT ANNIVERSARY

TWENTY YEARS AGO, on a cold November 3:00 a.m., the late Martha Allan telephoned Doris Hedges. "When I sleepily answered," she recalls, "Martha said, 'I've thought of something. Will you help me found a Canadian Little Theatre?' I said, 'Yes, of course,' and hung up."

That was the birth of the Montreal Repertory Theatre. Miss Allan then persuaded Sir Barry Jackson (on tour with Birmingham Repertory Theatre) to address a meeting of those interested in forming a permanent theatre. An organizational committee was formed that evening.

The first year three plays were given. (A wary reporter queried his editor re his review approach. Said the editor: "Treat them somewhere between amateur and professional.") The second play was "The Constant Wife," with Martha Allan as Constance.

This anniversary year, MRT repeated the Maugham success, opening on exact date of that first meeting 20 years ago. In the cast was an original player, Mrs. Doris Hedges; director was Louis Mulligan, early enthusiast and now on Board of Directors. "The Constant Wife" is MRT's 119th major production.

Among other early supporters: Martha Allan's parents, Sir H. Montagu Allan (Honorary President) and Lady Allan; the late Sir Andrew MacPhail, drama critic S. Morgan-Powell; and actively, Beatrice Munro Brown, Cecil West, and Filmore Sadler.

MRT's first rehearsals were in the Allans' coach house; productions staged in McGill's Moyse Hall. In 1932, space was obtained on Union Avenue and the Workshop — now Studio—was formed. (The Workshop tried out new talent and experimented with unusual plays; Studio policy still.) That year Viscount Duncannon, son of Governor-General the Earl of Bessborough, played the title role in "Hamlet."

The School of the Theatre was formed in 1933; offered classes to the public in acting, directing, make-up, etc. Many graduates joined MRT, among them Doreen Lewis, now full-time producing director and general manager.

The Dominion Drama Festival is a fulfilment of Miss Allan's dream of a Canadian Little Theatre; founded in 1934 by MRT (voice, Martha Allan) and the Earl of Bessborough. MRT has competed every year: won Sir Barry Jackson Trophy in 1934 for Miss Allan's play "All on a Summer Day," again in 1938 with a French play by Canadian Arthur Prevost; won a plaque in 1947 with "Amphitryon 38": but has never won the Martha Allan Trophy ("for the best visual presentation in the Festival") which keeps alive her memory in the DDF.

MARTHA ALLAN

Martha Allan died suddenly in 1942. The MRT Tin Hat Revue was playing to troops in Eastern Canada: the organization was about to move into new quarters on Guy Street. Miss Allan's death was a great blow. For Martha Allan *was* MRT. But others rallied to carry on. Said *The Gazette* in its anniversary story: "The finest tribute that can be paid to this woman of vision and initiative is to say that the project she started and fostered through the years still grows and thrives and remains unique in the community as a source of professional-standard theatre."

—Jones & Morris

DOREEN LEWIS

This Fall SN visited the Guy Street quarters. There is atmosphere there: walls crowded with old programs, photographs; period stage furniture crammed in halls and rooms, lending an air of elegance; the bare, workmanlike rehearsal basement room; the theatre itself, small (seats only 200) and yet with that intimate friendliness of a presentation in the home of some early English patron of the arts. Cold commercialism, however, demands a larger stage, and MRT has decided to purchase the present rented premises and alter the building to provide an adequate stage, as well as more space for The School of the Theatre and the Studio.

MRT's Library is one of the finest in Canada, is for the use of members, and is competently run by Marie Stehle. MRT also publishes a smart magazine, *Cue*, as a record of its own and other theatre activities. In the 1948-49 season, 269 people helped with MRT productions. Besides, a Theatre Club (about 200) meets once a month to discuss various aspects of the theatre.—*M. E. N.*

CHURCHILLIAN CHARM

"THE PHILADELPHIA STORY" is not as good a play as was thought ten years ago, though its theme, of the haughty and intolerant young woman who learns tolerance by discovering that her immaculate purity has been preserved by no virtue of her own, is still interesting. The original success was probably due in part to Katharine Hepburn's acting and in part to the heroine being carried on the stage (supposedly) in a bathrobe with nothing underneath it, though some credit must be given the late Philip Barry for his well-written dialogue.

The artificiality and implausibility of the piece can be disguised only by the most brilliant acting; this was not available in sufficient quantity in the present revival. Sarah Churchill in the Hepburn role has practically the whole weight of the play, the other characters being either background or comic relief (much of both being well done), and despite her evident charm and obvious intelligence, Miss Churchill cannot convey the complexity, the conflict between self-centred pride and rich innate capacity for love, of the "unawakened" woman of the first two acts. We should like to see Miss Churchill in a lighter comedy. Miss Bannerman as the Philadelphian mother did what she had to do perfectly and could have done a lot more.—*Lucy Van Gogh.*

GIRLS! GIRLS!

THIRTY years ago a group of young women graduates of University College, University of Toronto, decided to form a dramatic club. The opening of Hart House Theatre was an added incentive, a place to play. In 1942 the Club widened its membership qualifications to include graduates of other colleges and became the University Alumnae Dramatic Club.

Since 1919 there have been 32 opening nights. Ten entries in the Regional Drama Festival have won two trophies for the Club,—the award in the 1937 DDF for the best presentation in English ("Cradle Song"), exclusive of the Bessborough Trophy, and the Hugh Eayrs Trophy ("Years Ago") in the 1948 CODL. This group has the distinction of being the only group to enter the CODL Festival every year without a break.

Membership is strictly limited to ae's. But men guest in productions. Among these have been such well-known actors as Ivor Lewis, the late H. E. Hitchman, Dixon Wagner, Percy Schutte, Alec McKee. Edgar Stone directed many of the plays.

■ Mrs. Rae McDiarmid of West Vancouver Little Theatre Guild won first prize in the Western Canada Theatre Conference with her one-act play, "Growth". Norma MacMillan of the Vancouver Little Theatre has had her three act play "A Crowded Affair" produced in New Westminster. Two of her one-act plays and another one-acter by Jack Murphy will tour the Vancouver suburbs.

■ Vancouver Little Theatre Association was incorporated 28 years ago on Dec. 14. This Dec. 27 they will present "The Magic Elephant" by Vancouverite Kathryn Marcuse.

Director of this production will be Margaret Cunningham, well-known in radio and Little Theatre circles: the music, by the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra under Jascha Galperin.

—Tony Archer

IAN DOBBIE

The two Fall presentations were "Quiet Week-end" and "Candida." For their Festival entry they have chosen Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband," to be produced on a lavish scale with costumes by Stuart McKay of Theatre Under the Stars fame and with period furniture designed and made by members of the Vancouver School of Art.

Professional Director and Producer of Vancouver Little Theatre is Ian Dobbie.

music

OUR GAIN

FIVE years ago, Latvian-born Victor Kviesis of Saskatoon was a displaced person fleeing from the Russian occupation of his country with his wife and family. From 1944 to 1948 he spent his time in various zones of Germany. He escaped from Latvia with nothing and could look back with the chagrin that came with the knowledge that some Russian is sitting at his piano wearing his dress suit.

D. P. ARTIST: *Victor Kviesis.*

For Victor Kviesis is a concert pianist. During his stay in Germany he gave more than 300 concerts as soloist or with instrumental ensembles. Many of these concerts were given in displaced persons camps, in weather so cold that it was necessary to go outside between selections to warm his fingers over a stove.

In 1948 the United Church of Canada arranged for Mr. Kviesis, his wife and two sons to emigrate to Canada. Their first stop was Kapuskasing in Northern Ontario. Then when he moved to Saskatoon he became organist at Knox church. Thus, while he was a district court judge in Latvia and graduated from the Latvian state university in Riga in both music and law, his career is now entirely devoted to music.

BEATERS

SKEPTICISM of Canada's ability to produce things artistic—pottery, for instance, or perhaps music—has been heard frequently in other countries.

Recently, Sir Ernest MacMillan announced the establishment of an "Information Centre" for Canadian music and musicians. Controlling organization is the Canadian Music Council headed by Sir Ernest. Long a somewhat intangible body—its personnel and their activities attracted little public attention—it has to its credit the handling of Canadian entries in the 1948 Olympic Arts (and Music) Competitions at London. There, to the amazement of Europeans, Canadians captured two out of four awards in the class for chamber music (small groups of instruments) usually considered the culmination of musical art.

people

Playtime

■ The first session of Canada's 21st Parliament, recently prorogued, has produced more major Government legislation than any postwar parliament. The unexpected strength in the Commons of the opposition groups, despite a cut in numbers, has caused a lot of grief for the **St. Laurent-Howe** administration. However, the "Rump"

—CP

RUMP LIBERALS: *Frank Follwell, J. L. Gauthier, with the PM.*

Liberals, those forced to sit in the opposition side of the House, found time in the closing stages to hold their own Christmas party at which the Prime Minister was guest of honor.

■ **Hans Gruber,** 24-year-old Toronto musician who became conductor of the Victoria Symphony Orchestra last season, is continuing his course on "Exploring Music" as a follow-up to a series of night-class lectures last year before a record enrolment of 150 at Victoria College.

They Are Saying

■ RCMP **Inspector R. W. Wonnacott,** addressing the Chief Constables' Association of Canada at Windsor, Ont. told of the crime labs, the fingerprint division and other little-known activities of the Mounties. The identification bureau, he said, "gets a kick out of identifying criminals 1,000 miles from the crime."

■ The **Rev. Dr. W. T. Ross Flemington,** President of Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, considers university education incomplete if it does not include religious knowledge. The former principal Protestant army chaplain overseas suggested the introduction into universities of a period on the lines of the wartime "padre's hour" when troops could get advice on personal problems. At Mount Allison a special course taken by all students shows the importance of Christianity throughout history and in contemporary life and culture.

■ **Major-General Churchill Mann,** formerly Canadian Army Chief of Staff and now coordinator of civil defence for Toronto and York, last week said he thought war with Russia "inevitable." He said Toronto was one of the key cities in Canada being studied by civil defence planners and the same cities were being studied by the Russians.

Nice Work

■ **Ruth Sanderson** of Toronto wanted to sell cars but the first sales manager she went to see said he'd never heard of a woman car salesman. The next one she interviewed hadn't either but didn't see why she shouldn't try it. Salesman Sanderson, a graduate of a Hotel Management course at the University of Toronto, was agreeably surprised to find that men customers took very well to the idea. She was also pleased to find she had sold ten cars in her first month, fourth highest total among a group of 20 salesmen.

CAR SALESMAN

■ **Murray Rhodes Smith,** 19, of Winnipeg, has won the 1950 Rhodes Scholarship for Manitoba. His father, C. Rhodes Smith, Manitoba's Education Minister, was also a Rhodes scholar.

■ **B. M. Bater,** of Fleming, Sask., is 1950 Rhodes scholar from Saskatchewan. A student at St. Andrew's College, U of S, he is the first student for the ministry ever to win the coveted award in Saskatchewan.

Two other Rhodes winners who will enter Oxford next October are from the University of Toronto — **Robert Franklin Hetherington,** 23, and **Michael Hornyansky,** 22.

■ **Anne Clutterbuck,** the 20-year-old daughter of Britain's High Commissioner to Canada, Sir Alexander Clutterbuck, is working as a secretary in the Parliamentary Library. Civil Officials say she got the job on her own merit and that as far as they are concerned, she is just Miss Clutterbuck.

—CP

SECRETARY

Coincidence

■ In Canada on UN fellowships to study newspaper methods here, **Roy Ferroa,** of the Singapore *Straits Times,* and **André Schuwer,** news agency man from The Hague, met SN contributor R. N. Beattie. The latter said the nearest he got to Singapore was as an RCAF navigator with an RAF squadron in Ceylon early in 1945 when he helped to mine Singapore harbor.

"Well," said Mr. Ferroa, "I was with the RAF in 1946 when they had to locate those mines". To stress the coincidence it was found that Mr. Schuwer had been in Ceylon at the same time as Mr. Beattie in the Royal Dutch Naval Air Force.

education

STOP PRESS

FIVE academic institutions in Canada now offer courses in Journalism. The one at Ryerson Institute of Technology, Toronto, achieves what might well be the maximum in integration. In the first year of the two-year course, the student takes Journalism plus nine other subjects connected with the printing and publishing trades. The extra subjects include Bookbinding, Typewriting, English, Monotype, Photo-Lithography, Hand Composition, Lettering-Layout, Offset Presswork and Human Relations. During his second year he can drop any *one* of the extras and double his time in Journalism.

Edward Parker, Director of the School of Graphic Arts at Ryerson, himself a seasoned though youthful newspaperman, is enthusiastic—as are his 50 students—about Toronto's first course in Journalism on the campus level. "No matter what particular branches of the printing and publishing business our students eventually choose," he says, "they are obliged to take Journalism for one year. Hence they are bound to be sympathetic to the writer under pressure. When copy needs to be changed, it won't be necessary to send it to another department. If our students turn out to be nothing better than beat-reporters, we have failed in our objective."

Already, after only the first term of the first year of its first course, Ryerson Institute has received upwards of 40 letters asking for graduates *now;* there will be none until 1951. And there is a demand in the student body for an extension of the course. Many feel they cannot get enough general education before they specialize: would rather postpone the specialization to a third year. In the near future, the course may even be a four-year one.

Some of the students attending Ryerson are the sons of publishers. There are representatives from Pakistan, Malta, Cuba and Bermuda. Four of the 50 enrolled are girls, the first to be trained in all the mechanical operations of the $300,000 printing-plant as well as in the techniques of the editorial room.

AND OTHERS

OTHER academic centres offering courses in Journalism include: the University of Western Ontario (London), Carleton College (Ottawa), University of King's College (Halifax), Université de Montréal.

The latter stresses Social Science, although its third (the last) year is largely concerned with Journalism. Successful graduates (course is now four years) of Western receive an honor Bachelor of Arts degree; those of the three year course at King's College, a Diploma in Journalism; those of Carleton College a Bachelor of Journalism (in three years if admitted by Senior Matriculation or four years if by Junior).

Université de Montréal is the daddy of them all, having offered Journalism to French-speaking students for the past quarter-century.

The other three started their courses in 1945—though in fairness to Carleton, they were the first actually to start teaching Journalism as a subject. SATURDAY NIGHT's distinguished Wilfrid Eggleston is Professor and Director of the Department there. Graduates at Carleton numbered 16 in 1948; 39 in 1949. Western graduated 26 both those years; King's College three and eight. Montreal averages about a dozen graduates annually.

Professor George W. McCracken heads the course at Western, assisted by J. Leslie Wild and Mrs. J. J. Dingman. The present session is the first four-year one. Seminars, lectures and laboratory sessions are used to teach Techniques of Reporting, Feature Writing, History of Journalism, Law of the Press, Editing, Copyreading, Make-up, Radio News Writing, International Relations and other subjects. To earn their degree the students have to carry academic subjects as well, which average about half of the four-year course.

At Carleton College the candidate, too, must take liberal arts besides Journalism to qualify for his degree. Journalism subjects amount to two years' work: include such subjects as Feature Writing, Marketing, Interviewing, News Gathering, Editing and Interpretative Reporting.

As a certain well-known advertisement has it: "After graduation, what?" It would appear that eagle-eyed editors across Canada snap up the graduates. Half of the 52 from Western are now working on dailies, four on weeklies, four on magazines, two on radio, and one on advertising. That leaves only 15: of these, five are engaged in public or industrial relations, six in postgraduate work. This is truly a remarkable record.

—Ryerson Institute

JOURNALISM *at Ryerson Institute: 4 girls in class of 50: do all phases.*

Carleton College, too, has had sufficient numbers of its graduates out in the newspaper world to prove the usefulness of the course. At least 48 of the 55 graduates in the past two years are on newspaper staffs or doing related work. This would be 50, if you include two girls who got married after some journalistic experience.

U.K. and commonwealth

NOW AUSTRALIA

AFTER NEW ZEALAND now Australia, where the Labor Government has gone down to defeat by the Liberal and Country opposition, and Mr. Chifley gives way to Mr. Menzies as Prime Minister. Anti-Socialist forces in this country are greatly cheered by this result—possibly more cheered than the circumstances warant.

There is the recent South Bradford by-election to dampen enthusiastic confidence that what happened "down under" is going to happen here. The seat has been held by the Government, whose record in by-elections thus remains one of unbroken success. Not a happy portent.

As to the causes of the turn-over in Australia, where the Labor Government had held office for eight years and seemed strongly entrenched, they were probably much the same as in New Zealand, weariness with controls and restrictions, distrust of further extensive plans of nationalization and social service, and a general feeling that it was time the other side was given a chance.

As to the new Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies has already had two years of office in 1939-41. He is an impressive political figure, handsome, able, forceful, and eloquent, but with a reputation of being rather hard to work with, and a singular inability to make himself really popular.

"Never in Australian political history," said that shrewd and acid critic, Premier Hughes, "has there been a man who could fill so many halls and empty so many ballot-boxes." Rather like our own Canadian Conservative leader, Col. Drew. No? Well, not entirely unlike, either. Anyway, Mr. Menzies has managed to fill the ballot-boxes this time, and there he is—to the great joy of Tory Britain, which hopes to do the same trick here.

"HE DEFENDS HIMSELF"

CONTROVERSY has flared up hot and high inside the House of Commons and out of it over the publicity campaigns against nationalization now being conducted by a number of British industries, notably steel, insurance, sugar, and cement. These industries have already been warned that they are to be taken over. Others, like the water companies, feel that they are travelling across a sort of economic Hounslow Heath, and that at any moment the bold Dick Turpin of nationalization may step out from behind a clump of bushes and order them to stand and deliver.

Not unnaturally these industries are doing what they can to present the case against nationalization so far as it affects their own activities and interests. They are, in fact, spending a great deal of money in various forms of publicity addressed to consumers and to the general public.

It is over this money that the controversy has arisen, ever since Mr. Herbert Morrison made the threat that it might be counted as part of the electoral expenses of candidates

OFF TO CEYLON, *for the Commonwealth Conference: Mr. Bevin finds Asian problems require this long trip.*

opposed to nationalization — of all candidates, that is, who are not Socialists. Thus a successful Tory candidate, for instance, might find himself disqualified for exceeding the legal limit of expenses on account of expenditure over which he had no control and with which he had nothing whatever to do.

It is very doubtful whether such a view of the law could be maintained in the courts. It is also doubtful whether the Socialists ever mean to test it there. The Representation of the People Act forbids any expenditure in an election except by the candidate or his accredited agents. In the words of the Attorney-General, "third parties must keep out of the ring." But there is at present no ring.

We are not in the midst of a General Election. We don't even know when it is to be held. It seems therefore rather fantastic to claim that all expenditure, no matter when or by whom, which might have a political effect is to be treated as election expenses. Not even Socialist candidates could escape disqualification on such a basis.

It may be that the claim is not being very seriously made, that it is merely one of the opening guns in the electoral battle, an attempt to persuade the voters that the vested interests are trying to defeat the will of the nation, an attempt also to frighten the threatened industries into giving up their propaganda against nationalization. But the wicked and predatory capitalists show little sign of heeding the warning. *"Cet animal est très méchant; quand on l'attaque, il se défend."*

A BREATH OF CRITICISM

OFFICIALS in the Welfare State seem to become more and more sensitive. The dear fellows wear their nerves on the outside of their skin, and the least breath of criticism makes them wince like salted snails, as P. G. Wodehouse used to say.

The other day a Jack Buchanan comedy opened in the Strand. It contains a mild little skit on the Coal Board and the requisitioning of an old castle.

After the opening night a couple of Coal Board officials turned up at the theatre to object to the "misrepresentations", to demand to see the script and a rehearsal, and to serve notice that unless the offending passages were removed they would "take action." They were led away sobbing into their bowler hats. It's a sad story.

EVEN THE SASSENACH

MERCHANTS in Eire are doing a wonderful business in "gift" parcels to Britain, the kind of gift that you order through an agent and pay for in advance. All quite simple and legal, only it won't be legal after Jan. 1, which is the reason for so much frantic activity now.

The "gifts" are coming over at the rate of about 150,000 a week, and the Eire postal authorities have asked the British for the loan of 5,000 mail-bags to cope with it all. Wonderful what a lot of kindness there is in the world, and how warm Irish hearts remain! They hate to think of even the Sassenach going hungry, while the poor creature has money in his pocket and is still allowed to spend it.

OLD IMPLACABLE

LAST AFLOAT of all the ships that fought at Trafalgar the Old Implacable, once the French Duguay-Trouin, has been taken out into the Channel and sunk in 36 fathoms. There is still the Victory, of course, but the Victory is not afloat. There was talk of repairing the Implacable and keeping her also as a memorial. But the cost appeared too great.

There was even talk of the French government taking her back—a group of French deputies wanted it—but no one was willing to spend the money. So finally there was nothing for it but to tow her out into the Channel, and sink her there with all the honors her long years and her history deserved. She was launched in 1800. —*P. O'D.*

ROYAL BANK APPOINTMENTS

T. F. WHITLEY

S. A. DUKE

C. L. WALKER

Appointment of Thomas F. Whitley as Supervisor of Ontario branches is announced by The Royal Bank of Canada today. Mr. Whitley has been Manager of the bank's main Toronto branch since the turn of the year and for two years was Assistant to the Supervisor in Vancouver. He succeeds S. A. Duke, Supervisor since 1941, who will shortly retire on pension. C. L. Walker has been appointed to succeed Mr. Whitley as Manager of Toronto Branch.

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U.S. affairs

ATOMIC PARTNERSHIP

TALKS in Washington appear to have produced the broad outlines of a new atomic partnership between the United States, Britain and Canada. This project will be a major item of business to be taken up by the State Department with Congressional leaders in the second session of the 81st Congress.

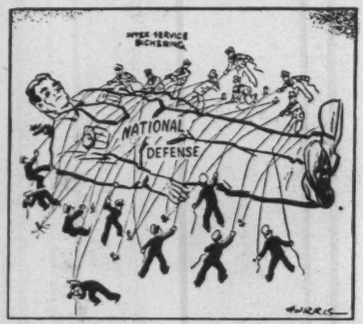
The plan calls for the participation of Canadian and British scientists in continued and concentrated weapons manufacture in the United States, with Britain and Canada continuing their own work on basic atomic research, which has already produced positive results. The new program would give the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom greater participation in American atomic secrets. They would also have "demand rights" against the U.S. atomic bomb stockpile.

Several advantages are expected from the new partnership. It would assure the English-speaking members of the North Atlantic Security Pact a maximum output of atomic bombs on the scale that the United States demonstrated she could produce war materials in the last world conflict. In restoring cooperation between the three countries, it would also permit the development of new atomic energy plants and bomb factories in areas distant from possible war theatres.

IS U.S. DEFENCE READY?

Some of it can be chalked up to political motives looking toward next year's Congressional election, but Administration critics claim that the nation's defences are in a precarious state despite the expenditure of some 50 billion dollars on them in the last four years.

Economy advocates, who are becoming more vocal as the opening of the new session nears, charge that seven billions of the Defence Department's 14½ billion dollar appropriation for fiscal 1950 will go for salaries alone. They contend that the United States would, in the event of hostilities, have a similar experience to that of the last war, when it had to gear its entire civilian effort to needs of actual fighting. Except for retaliatory atom-bombing of the enemy, it is claimed that the country would have to start all over again to rebuild its army, navy and air force.



—Morris in Rochester Democrat

BATTLE OF PENTAGON *has lapsed into armistice, with the replacement of Chief of Naval Operations.*

—Fletcher in Sioux City Journal

SOUTHERN *"States' Rights" Democrats are tightening ranks behind James F. Byrnes for fight against "Fair Deal" of President Truman.*

The Navy, these critics charge, is especially hard hit, and while the Army is said to have ten divisions, it is pointed out that Russia has about 150 divisions. Of the ten U.S. divisions, only one is armored and two are airborne. There are also two Marine divisions in combat readiness.

It is true that Defence Secretary Louis Johnson has been trying to meet the demands of economy critics for a reduction in expenditures. At the moment, he is in the midst of a program to cut departmental expenditures by 200 millions the first year, and later at a rate of half a billion a year. His defence chiefs contend that they are in a state of preparedness.

THE "HONEST DEAL"

The economy bloc believes that it has a program that will sit well with the American people. They call it the "Honest Deal" as compared with the Truman "welfare state" Fair Deal. They claim that the Administration plan will lead the nation into bankruptcy.

The Honest Deal slogan, they explain, means that when a person banks a dollar or spends it on life insurance he will get something like a dollar in purchasing power in the years ahead when he draws out his money.

Yet, the Administration contends that the United States must spend vast sums today purely for national security. Senator O'Mahoney, Democrat of Wyoming, who heads the Joint Senate and House Committee on Economic Affairs, declared: "From my point of view the talk of cutting Government expenditures is arrant nonsense unless we are willing to say 'we shall not defend ourselves, we shall let the international problem catch up with us.'"

Contesting the "Honest Deal" economy viewpoint, Paul G. Hoffman, head of the Economic Cooperation Administration (Marshall Plan), warns that United States defence costs would soar to 30 billion dollars annually if Western Europe went Communist. The ECA program has averted this, he says, at a far lower cost.

President Truman and Budget Director Frank Pace have been mapping out the Chief Executive's Budget message at Key West for delivery at the opening of Congress in January.

Members of Congress, according to party affiliation, have been calling for reductions in spending or for higher taxes, or both. Political realities are not likely to permit either budget reduction or considerably increased taxation in this election year. Mr. Truman's budget speech seems certain to draw the lines of battle for the election next fall.

MORE WELFARE

The economy battle cry apparently hasn't frightened Mr. Truman. News from his Key West vacation place was that he is going right back to Congress for enactment of his social and economic program, despite the cost, and despite the fact that the request for civil rights legislation is likely to jam the legislative process once again.

Instead of following Roosevelt's technique, Mr. Truman is expected to throw the whole legislative book at Congress. This method succeeded unexpectedly during the gruelling ten months of the first session. But Mr. Truman will not have ten months this time. Congress will want to close up shop early.

In the opposite camp, the Republican strategists have decided to end their long and unsuccessful attempt to get into power on a program of "me-tooism." The new strategy chairman, Arthur E. Summerfield, wants Republican candidates to "go to the people with a program clearly and unmistakably in opposition to that now offered by our opponents."

National GOP Chairman Guy Gabrielson believes that "we should adopt a clear cut point of view. We are going to have an affirmative program". He agrees that "it seems crystal clear to me that the record of the party for the past 16 years demands that a brand new and fundamental conception of strategy be adopted."

—Manning in Arizona Republic

RECENT *visits by U.S. Admiral, Congressional committees, have raised Franco's hopes for regaining favor.*

books

IN SHINY ARMOR

THE SARACEN'S HEAD—by Osbert Lancaster—Musson—$2.00.

IF YOU have overlooked some male of the species for Christmas and want to remember him in a hurry here's a choice little item made to order.

Its 68 pages, with almost as many illustrations by the author in color and black and white, tell of the adventures and misadventures, principally misadventures, of William de Littlehampton in the heyday of chivalry. Richard the Lion Heart was then king of England. The characters and settings are a natural for that master of satire, Lancaster, who has convulsed two continents with his "Pillar to Post" and "Homes Sweet Homes." The troubles of Willie de Littlehampton evoke at least three laughs to the page in this latest, neat job of work.

Willie made the mistake of being born in the wrong age and, particularly, into the wrong family. His father was Sir Dagobert who would sooner chop open a steel helmet and skull than quaff a bumper. But he tangled with a despised catapult used for such timely jests as flinging fire bombs into castles: it flung Sir Dagobert over a town wall into the market square. The four-point landing didn't bother him but the indignity did. His blood pressure rose until his veins exploded. Even then Sir Dagobert played in luck. He didn't live to see his son.

In fact, Willie was one of those people who wishes he was somewhere else. He had none of his sire's courage; he was afraid of steel choppers and stickers; he was scared of gals and quaked at the thought of his matriarchial old dame; he shivered every time he saw a nag and saddle. When Willie joined the Crusades things really began to happen.

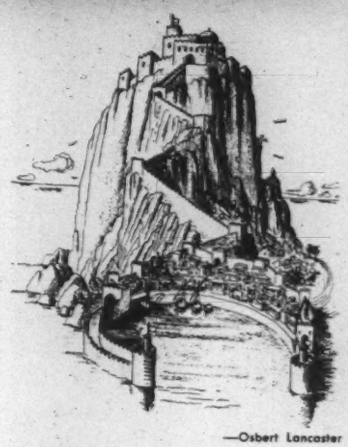
There was the small matter of big El Babooni, famous Saracen champion who knocked off the best Christian battlers with nonchalance, that is until he met Willie and was mysteriously skewered with a lance. Willie got knighted for that one. Quite another dish was Willie's magnificent lack of appreciation when the King made him the Royal Standard Bearer.

Then there were the gals; there was his cousin Gertrude, who made a lot of people miserable who never did her any harm, and Despina Protopappadopoulos; well, this innocent Poppy lived in a castle that looked like an inverted icecream cone, and she got herself snatched by pirates. This little number got Willie in very deep; but, then, Willie never did know just what happened to him and how he scraped out of it. So, it remains for the author's moralizings to keep Willie on his tender feet and these are just as funny as Willie himself.

"The Saracen's Head" is just one huge laugh from start to finish. It's a book you can read in an hour and remember for 10 years.—*F.E.D.McD.*

—Osbert Lancaster

From "The Saracen's Head"



—Osbert Lancaster

From "The Saracen's Head"

FLYING NOTES

EDUCATION OF A CONCERT-GOER — by Homer Ulrich—Dodd, Mead—$5.00.

■ A handy information-packed reference and guidebook about the art of music, the profession of music and the business of music that traces the steps in the preparation of a symphony concert and gives many behind-the-scenes glimpses into the musical world. Contains a full bibliography on history, criticism and biography.

THE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING Guide to Musical Enjoyment—by George R. Marek—Clarke, Irwin—$4.25.

■ Another book about music in general, not quite so comprehensive as "The Education of a Concert-Goer" but quite as readable, by the music editor of *Good Housekeeping* magazine. The book makes a very good introductory piece for those whose interest in serious music is beginning to awaken.

A TREASURY OF THE BLUES—edited by W. C. Handy—Musson—$6.00.

■ This handsome collection of 67 great blue songs is necessary in any library that pretends to notice jazz form in even the slightest degree. The words and music of "Memphis Blues" and 66 other famous numbers in the blues idiom have been selected and edited by the great Handy himself—best known for his "St. Louis Blues." But while music lovers will derive satisfaction from reading through the variety of material, serious students of jazz will find plenty for theme research, examination of form development in native blues, and excerpts from blues-derived larger items such as Gershwin's "Rhapsody."

FREDERIC CHOPIN — edited by Stephen P. Mizwa—Macmillan—$4.00.

■ A centennial volume on the composer, this book is the first of no doubt many tributes and memorials which will appear during the 1949-50 season. It contains a biography by the editor, a tribute by Howard Hanson, several essays on his work, excerpts from letters, etc. Though it has been written and assembled by a group of avowed Chopinophiles bent on canonizing the hero, it is beautifully bound and contains many photographs and paintings of Chopin, his contemporaries and his life-settings.

THE VICTOR BOOK OF SYMPHONIES — by Charles O'Connell—Musson—$5.00.

■ The second in the series of four comprehensive Victor books to be issued is an enlarged version of the 1941 edition and is devoted exclusively to works strictly in symphonic form. It contains 158 snapshots of the symphonies with not-too-technical analysis. While not to be recommended as a reliable critique of the symphony it does contain much useful information.

From "The Education of Johnny Longfoot"

ARTISTIC WHOPPERS

THE TABLE TALK OF SAMUEL MARCHBANKS—by Robertson Davies—Clarke, Irwin—$2.75.

IT TAKES an observant eye, a certain penetration below the mere surface of things, to realize that "Napoleon's retreat from Moscow must have looked rather like" a Peterborough residential street in winter at dusk in the evening of Garbage Day—yet what a flash of truth is there!

In Canada, we further read, "a Lady is without discernible sex, but can reproduce its kind by a system resembling radar." An Eastern Ontario Drama Festival "was conducted with appropriate sedateness, as if there were a body lying in the next room." To be really and extensively attractive to women a man "must be free to give his whole time to it, and the Canadian male is so hounded by taxes and the rigors of our climate that he is lucky to be alive, without being irresistible as well."

These are samples of Mr. Davies's wisdom, but the book is equally notable for his inventiveness. He is perhaps the leading Canadian producer—certainly the leading one outside of politics—of the Great Lie, or Artistic Whopper. See the tale of the Toronto undergrad who slept in orange silk bloomers, page 101.—*B.K.S.*

ADDED ENTRIES

WINKIE—by Albro Pratten—Oxford—$1.35.

■ Winkie is everything a squirrel should be. He is the pet of the family which has reared him since the day early in his life when curiosity caused him to fall out of his nest. After a carefree summer he suddenly realizes it is fall and time for all sensible squirrels to go nutting and build a nest. The following spring, he finds himself a mate and life begins in earnest. Colorful illustrations. For the younger set 4-7.

SLEEPY TO THE RESCUE—by Bob McReynolds—Macmillan—$2.00.

■ A grand book for a young dog-lover (6-10). Sleepy, the spaniel, tells his own story. His grand passion is hamburger and he and his friend Sandy, the police dog, think up schemes daily to get some. On the way home from an unsuccessful excursion, Sandy gets caught in a coyote trap and Sleepy runs for help. This time the smell of hamburger leads him to two boys who follow him and rescue Sandy. This sad event brings both dogs' masters to their senses and they promise hamburger daily from then on. Appealing photographs by Roy Davenport.

THE EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION of Johnny Longfoot—McClelland & Stewart—$3.25.

■ A little boy's adventures in his search for a magic hat is told by a Polish author living in the United States. His animal friends, a cat, a rat, a frog and, of all things, a spider are well-drawn although one feels this children's story has been written with somewhat forced imagination, which the child may sense. (For children 9-13.)

TRIGGER JOHN'S SON—by Tom Robinson—Macmillan—$3.25.

■ This is a full-length novel, for boys 11-14 especially, but for nostalgia "boys" much, much older too, of a modern day Tom Sawyer. A 12-year-old orphan boy gets into several brands of mischief, alone and in the "Gooretown" gang.

The book first appeared in 1934 and was immediately popular. Now, with handsome illustrations, that popularity should begin all over again.

From "Trigger John's Son"

films

ANTI-SOCIAL CAGNEY

THE SEASON of peace on earth, goodwill toward men, found the screen alive with gangsters and popping with gun-fire. Glenn Ford fights it out with a rival gang in "Mr. Soft Touch," and James Cagney takes on the state police and the Treasury Department in "White Heat." Both come to a bad end.

"White Heat" restores James Cagney to the underworld, a locale in which he has always flourished. Clean living never quite suited Cagney, who usually gave the impression of marking time while waiting on the majestic processes of law and order. His latest film leaves him footloose, fist free and trigger happy. It is the best picture he has made in years.

The gangster film which Cagney helped to introduce was a relatively simple exercise in violence. Action generally took precedence over acting, and action was enough as long as Cagney was anywhere in sight; for Cagney in action can be almost as exciting as some volatile figure in ballet.

He is also a remarkable actor, however, and he takes pains to prove it in "White Heat." Here he has rejected the gangster "type", and given us instead a chilling full-length characterization. His hijacker is a homicidal maniac whose resourcefulness and cunning mount steadily as he loses contact with reality and living beings. The story itself is rather confused and commonplace but Cagney in the central role fairly blazes with menace and vitality.

The psychiatrists have of course been busy on the script and we soon learn that the hero, good American thug that he is, has a Mom-fixation. His only friend in the world is his mother (Margaret Wycherly), an out-of-the-way type who dreams of her boy breaking into Fort Knox as mothers on a different cultural level might dream of their sons entering Oxford. In her own obsessed fashion Margaret Wycherly is almost as compelling as Cagney and it is a real loss when she is finally shot in the back by Miss Virginia Mayo.

The remainder of the film is little more than an elaboration of the "Crime Does Not Pay" series, with Cagney keeping the authorities so busy that police headquarters looks like the control-room in war-time Battle of Britain films. Most of this is quite incomprehensible but it probably helps to reassure the customers that God is on the side of the heaviest technical equipment.

"MR. SOFT TOUCH" is such a heavily sentimentalized affair that I doubt if even James Cagney could have succeeded in energizing it. A gangster (Glenn Ford) holes up between operations in a shabby settlement and is presently deep in love with the pretty head-worker (Evelyn Keyes). She discovers his profession before long but this only helps to endear him—it seems that as a child she was clipped over the head so severely by her father that she had to

take to a hearing aid, a circumstances that has merely deepened her sympathy for the more brutal classes.

The gangster meanwhile has become fascinated by the settlement house and can't be pried loose from it, partly because he is a rough idealist himself and partly because he has cached an illegal $100,000 among the Christmas decorations. Things eventually work out, with plenty of shock and rattle on the sound-track.

As often happens, all these unreal people move against an authentically observed and real background. The settlement itself might be any downtown settlement, scuffed, shabby, riotous with vitality, and pathetically embellished with the cut flowers and art-pottery which symbolize "nice" living. This unpretentious type of realism is one of the most admirable and disconcerting things about the movies. The people who make them seem to have an exact and scrupulously observant eye for almost everything except the complexity of human relationships.

SOME special clearance seems to be taking place in the British studios, with all sorts of odd items being knocked down for export. "Girl in a Million" is the latest of these, and to judge by Joan Greenwood's hats and skirts the film had been on the shelf for several seasons.

"Girl in a Million" is a gross overestimate. Nothing like this particular girl has ever turned up before, on the screen or off it. When she first appears the star is afflicted by dumbness, a psychosomatic state induced by shock and exposure at sea. Presently a reticent British scientist (Hugh Williams) falls in love with her and marries her. He won't be satisfied however until she recovers her powers of speech. She does too, and before long she has turned herself into a bad imitation of Gracie Allen, and is driving her poor scientist crazy.

It is a sound comedy idea but it is badly handled here, with people falling wildly out of character at every turn of the plot. Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne are involved as suffering fellow-scientists, and their famous imperturbability barely enables them to survive their roles, with nothing left over for entertainment.

—*Mary Lowrey Ross.*

—Columbia

GLENN FORD *in "Mr. Soft Touch."*

intermission

Let's Move Our Mountains

by L. E. G. Upper

MR. VISHINSKY'S recent assertion that the Russians are moving mountains by atomic power brings back to mind an old project of mine which, for some obscure reason, has not made the impression on the Canadian mind which one would expect. As a traveller and student of the weather, I am impressed with the unfortunate distribution in this country of rainfall and cold. The Pacific coast, for example, gets far more rain than it needs, and the prairies get far less. The prairies get more cold weather than they really require. Only in Ontario is the climate at the peak for the production of crops and men.

Now the causes of our difficulties are well-known to all scientists. They are, in fact, quite simple, consisting in (a) the presence of the Rocky Mountains between the interior and the Pacific, (b) the absence of mountains between the interior and the Arctic. If this country were blessed with a high range of mountains along the rim of the Arctic, its situation would be parallel to those of Italy or India. In those countries, the Alps and the Himalayas respectively shelter the plains to the southward, greatly raising their temperatures. A northern mountain range, however, while it would rob Winnipeg of its proud position as the coldest city on earth, would not solve the problem of prairie drought. In fact, by raising the temperature, it would increase evaporation and thus make the situation worse.

Thanks to atomic discovery, a remedy, even for the absence of mountain ranges, lies close at hand, and now that the Russians have set the example, there is no good reason why we should not avail ourselves of it. It is simple in conception, and to say that it would be revolutionary in its consequences is something of an understatement.

The conception is as bold as it is simple. It consists in a project that, at a stroke, will subdue a large part of the whole world to the conquests of science. What is more, it will be beneficent, which is more than can be said of many of the miracles of science. The prospect of changing the fate of the human race for the better, particularly our own section of it, lies at hand. Shall we avail ourselves of it, or leave glorious achievement to bolder peoples? It is time for Canadians to give over their timidities and to act!

The project I have in mind is simply this: blow up the Rocky Mountains with atomic bombs.

There is no point in urging that it could not be done, that it is not practicable, that it would never pay, that the time is not ripe, etc. These are all the arguments of timid conservatives. Science can do anything, and, as Mr. Vishinsky himself assures us, the atomic scientist can blow up mountains.

Let us therefore set to work. I do not say, destroy the whole range. Not at first, anyway. But blast a gap from the American border to near Jasper. Some incidental scenery will go up along with the mountains, but this is as nothing to the advantages to be obtained.

Advantages? Think of what would happen if there stretched from the Pacific to the interior, not range after range of mountains, but a wide space of gently undulating land, with one or two Mount Robsons left intact at landscape gardener intervals for scenic effect. At present the warm air from the Pacific, laden with water, strikes the western sides of the mountains and douses them in perpetual rain and fog. Vancouver is never dry. Kamloops is never wet.

The poor prairies are the worst sufferers from the mountains. South-eastern Alberta and south-western Saskatchewan are remarkable, not for their ranches nor for their wheat, but for their sage brush, cactus and rattlesnakes, and these are all the result of lack of rain. The prairie dweller seldom has enough to drink: as far east as Winnipeg, he is afflicted with chronic thirst.

Now take the mountains out of the way and see what happens! The warm Pacific winds come rolling in, moisture-laden, and instead of flooding out Vancouver, they distribute their rain evenly all the way, right through to the Atlantic coast. They thus save Ontario from such droughts as it has recently experienced.

Not only do they end droughts: they raise the temperature. Everyone knows that roses grow best in Victoria at Christmas time. Take away the mountains and we shall have Christmas roses all over Canada!

What in essence we do when we blow up the mountains is to give the prairies and northern Ontario a climate similar to that of western Europe—a British climate. Could there be a stronger inducement?

Of course blowing out the mountains is only half the job. The mountains have to be blown *somewhere*. My thought is that they be moved up and piled along the northern rim of the continent, there making another range to keep out the cold. I estimate that this operation, which I must repeat, is perfectly practicable with our new scientific methods, would give Prince Albert, Sask., a climate approximately the same as that of Florence, Italy. Toronto would become our Canadian Poona. There would thus no longer be any need for western farmers to go to California for the winter and this would represent a considerable saving in American exchange, to be set against the cost of mountain removal.

In one short article I cannot present all the details of my plan. I assure you, however, the possibilities in it expand as one contemplates them. (Very incidentally, for example, unlimited employment on public works during depressions.) The project is, in fact, so many-sided that there is no longer excuse for delay. Russia shows the way! Chalk River scientists, fill your suitcases with your heavy water and your exploding atoms and board the train for Banff. Let Operation Mountain-moving begin.

The Wood Road

IT HELD the woods in thrall to
make a path for trilliums;
The grave-eyed daisy bloomed, the
bright bluebell;
And only velvet-footed deer were
shy pedestrians,
Aware of men but conscious all
was well.

It seemed a ghost of roads, this
stretch of hazy greenery,
A highway for the elves to travel
on
With delicate steps avoiding the
pink and white hepaticas,
Like fallen stars or lamps from
Babylon.

ALFRED W. PURDY

Parallel

SOME men are like wild apples,
hard and sour,
Unmellowed by the natural sun of
living;
Yielding no tingling sweetness,
golden warmth,
Being tart of tongue, and meagre
in their giving.

Yet they are still amazed—when
cruel Winter
Strips the gnarled tree from which
their Youth has flown—
That they must share the fate of
small, hard apples;
Left strictly, and unpleasantly,
alone.

PAULINE HAVARD

SATURDAY NIGHT

world of women

British Columbia's "Madam Speaker"

by J. K. Nesbitt

"MAKE WAY for Madam Speaker."

That precedent-shattering cry will be heard next Spring in the sombre corridors of British Columbia's Legislative Buildings in Victoria.

The cry will come from the Sergeant-at-arms as, carrying the mace, he makes his way along the corridor ahead of the British Commonwealth's first woman speaker, Mrs. Nancy Hodges.

"Make way for Madam Speaker," his voice will boom into the blue-carpeted, marble pillared legislative chamber. Mrs. Hodges, in the black silken gown and tricorne hat of the Legislature's highest office, will enter the chamber as all MLA's rise; she will bow to the right and to the left and take her place in the massive oak chair on the blue-carpeted dais.

In asking the Legislature to elect her Speaker, Premier Byron Johnson paid tribute to the part women of today take in public affairs. In this way also, he said a graceful, grateful "thanks" to the woman who, more than any other person, was responsible for his becoming Premier in the first place.

Mrs. Hodges moved Johnson's nomination at a memorable Liberal convention two years ago when he was chosen John Hart's successor. The convention seemed loaded for Attorney-general Wismer. Mrs. Hodges, in a fighting speech, though she thought she was losing, said Byron Johnson was the man for Liberal leadership. She knew Liberal leadership would mean the Premiership. By eight votes she and Johnson won.

Mrs. Hodges is 61, native Englishwoman, in Canada 37 years.

She and her husband, Harry P. Hodges, now editor of *The Victoria Times*, came to British Columbia from England in 1912, settled in Kamloops, where they took over publication of the weekly *Sentinel*. A few years later they moved to Victoria. Both went to *The Times*, he as legislative correspondent, she as women's editor. She was a working newspaperwoman many years, at her desk at 7.30 a.m. each day, reporting weddings and obituaries, interviewing distinguished women, covering women's meetings and theatrical events. She could even do sport if she had to. Five years ago she commenced her column "One Woman's Day" and it still runs in *The Times*.

Mrs. Hodges first ran for the BC Legislature in 1937 and was defeated. She won in 1941, 1945, 1949. She makes a good speech in the House, though always careful to say nothing that would embarrass the Government. Once a session, to prove she's independent, she votes for an Opposition resolution. The resolution never goes through, but Mrs. Hodges has the satisfaction of standing against the Government.

Usually the matter means nothing, and is soon forgotten, but it enables Mrs. Hodge to point to the record and say that she'll be no rubber stamp for any government.

In her speeches she's brief, to the point. In this regard she puts many of her male colleagues to shame. In caucus, she's tough, says what she thinks in a punchy way. She's a good campaigner, keeps grinning at the inconveniences of travel in the sticks, likes to meet people, does most of the talking herself, gathers non-political material for her column.

She and her husband, childless, live in a comfortable cottage a few miles from the Legislative Buildings. It is set in the centre of a beautiful little garden, largely created by Mrs. Hodges herself. She is a first class cook and housekeeper. There is little time for much besides her newspaper and legislative work. She averages two speeches a week. She is well-known across Canada, for she is President of the National Liberal Women's Federation.

As Madam Speaker, she will sit in solemn dignity in the House, listening to speeches, never able to make one herself. She will rule on proceedings and keep legislative law and order when members fight among themselves. She will have a suite of luxurious offices in the Legislative Buildings, her own secretary and attendant.

She will entertain distinguished visitors to tea in her suite, members of the House to luncheon at her special table in the Legislative restaurant. She will serve sherry on occasion, though she drinks tomato juice and she will pass cigarettes, though she seldom smokes.

A few years ago, after Byron Johnson became Premier, Mrs. Hodges could have been a Cabinet Minister. The press rumored this. Mrs. Hodges was annoyed. She is extremely allergic to press notices about herself unless they are filled with praise. In a loud voice, with biting sarcasm, in the well-filled lobbies of big city hotels, she has lectured reporters whom she suspected wrote things about her she didn't like.

She was so annoyed about the rumor she could become a Cabinet Minister she burned all her bridges behind her. She issued a formal statement to say not then, or ever, would she take a Cabinet Minister's position.

As Madam Speaker, she will receive an $1,800 a year sessional allowance, in addition to her $3,000 a year as an MLA.

—Bill Halkett, Victoria

HISTORY *will be made Feb. 14 when Nancy Hodges assumes new duties.*

—Gordon Jarrett

SILVER BELLS, *pine cones, are materials for a decoration by Helen Simpson.*

EVERGREEN:

Festive Decor

"FOR CHRISTMAS, true green colors are best," says florist Helen Simpson of Toronto. "For simplicity and naturalness nothing can touch the evergreens."

She suggests you combine hemlock, spruce or pine with winter foliage and cones. Result—pleasant fragrance and Christmassy cheerfulness: as well as lasting decorations for over New Year's. Helen Simpson doesn't make an issue of the evergreens for Christmas. That is her personal preference. But it is backed by 25 years in the florist business.

She graduated from selling daisies over a plank-across-boxes stand to amused relatives, to selling flowers in a real florist shop in her native Ottawa. Twelve years later—now in Toronto — she married wholesale-florist J. F. Lynette and they opened the "Helen Simpson" shop. There, of course, she sells everything and her Christmas stock includes many other things besides evergreens.

"Pastel Christmas trees have become very popular," she says. "And we color cones and foliage, too." The trees require three coats of color paint and have to dry thoroughly between each coat. "It's a long and expensive process."

Back again to her "natural" Christmas theme, Helen Simpson believes interesting driftwood and stumps can be incorporated into attractive table centres and decorations. For a modern narrow table you can achieve a simple, charming centrepiece with a birchbark log — covered with winter foliage or with a bowl of evergreens on either side; or for any sized or shaped table, you can use a suitable shallow dish filled with foliage from your own shrubbery or with cones and berries.

Or if you have a yen for real flowers at Christmas time, a bowl of evergreens can be dramatized by tucking in a few stark-white flowers or flaming red ones—or both.

A few years ago it was Helen Simpson who introduced to Toronto women the Christmas corsage of cones, berries, tips of evergreens and miniature bells—a dash of pre-Christmas gaiety against the dark of fur coats. Every Helen Simpson corsage is a "thing of beauty". She has an eye for color combinations — her mother taught her true colors when she was a child—and in the non-Christmas season favors pale green, pale yellow, coral and lavender. In her natural flower corsages for Yuletide she trades her famous plumed feather arrangement—almost a Helen Simpson trademark—for pine needles and bells.

"Christmas is the end of the chrysanthemum season and Spring flowers haven't yet come in," she says. "Flowers are difficult to produce in quantity—like strawberries out of season." She has always loved flowers. There was a big garden at her Clemow Avenue home. Her father, George Simpson (Editor of *Debates* in the House of Commons), was President of both the Ottawa and the Ontario Horticultural Societies. And now, on their 16-acre Kleinburg (near Toronto) home, Helen Simpson and her husband grow flowering shrubbery, perennials, vegetables, a few fruit trees—and chickens. The family is completed by eleven-year-old wire-haired terrier Michael.

"Of course the individual home suggests the individual Christmas treatment," says Helen Simpson. "Where space is limited, wall pockets or clusters are festive and out of the way." Flowering plants provide a Christmassy green touch, she points out—like the philadendron (heart shaped leaves) which is becoming very popular: or there are the almost traditional Christmas poinsettia's as well as azaleas, cyclamen, violet plants and begonias.

Elizabeth Arden

"Never is a woman so supreme as when she is sure of her loveliness".

ELIZABETH ARDEN

Arden

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New Year's Eve . . . and prophetic, too, of the enchanting femininity of
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DISTAFF:

Awards, Applause

—Newton, Ottawa
EDITH SCHOFIELD

THE ONLY two women Red Cross Commissioners in Canada attended the Disaster Institute in Toronto in December. They are **Miss E. M. Schofield,** Saint John, NB, and **Miss I. Arsenault,** Charlottetown, PEI. Miss Schofield has been NB Commissioner since 1942, was previously a nurse; Miss Arsenault has been in Red Cross work since 1927, Commissioner since 1934.

—Newton, Ottawa
I. ARSENAULT

■ **Mrs. Anne Marie Boyer** of Montreal was recently awarded a registered industrial cost accountant degree, the first Canadian woman to receive the diploma. Mrs. Boyer, mother of four children, attended night classes for six years, worked one year on thesis.

■ About 500 members of the Women's Canadian Club of Victoria attended the Club's 40th Anniversary Tea, including **Mrs. H. L. Smith,** President, and twelve past presidents. Life memberships were presented to **Audrey Alexander Brown,** Canadian poetess, and **Mrs. G. H. Barnard,** first President of the Club.

■ **Mrs. Eliza Houde,** principal of St. Norbert School for Boys, received a 1949 Canadian Drama Board award for her contribution to drama in Manitoba. A past Vice-President of St. Boniface's Cercle Molière, she has been an active member of the group for 15 years.

■ Come January 17, Canadian diving queen **Mrs. Lydna Hunt** of Vancouver will fly to the British Empire games.

■ In the recent Calgary elections, **Mrs. Rose E. Wilkinson** led the polls.

■ **Jeanne d'Arc LeMay,** advocate in Quebec City, was elected President of the Quebec University Women's Club, for the French group in that city.

■ Two newspaper women sports writers made the new AAU of C Amateur Athletic Hall of Fame. They are **Myrtle Cook,** *The Montreal Daily Star,* and **Fanny (Bobbie) Rosenfeld,** *The Globe and Mail,* Toronto. Only six women were named to this honor.

■ Winners in the essay contest sponsored by the Quebec Women's Institutes were **Mrs. Anna E. Wilson,** Cavagnal; **Mrs. A. Graham,** Frontier; **Mrs. Clive Smart,** Stark's Corners. **Miss Ruth M. Low,** Assistant Supervisor of English for the Dept. of Education, judged the entries.

■ To mark the 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Academy, Winnipeg, the Academy and the college alumnae will present the school with a silver tea service. At the annual alumnae meeting, **Miss Catherine Peer** was re-elected President.

the lighter side

Streamlining Christmas

by Mary Lowrey Ross

SOME YEARS ago I received a handsome brass door-knocker from Mrs. W., a mutual friend of Miss A.'s and mine who had moved to Saskatchewan.

The door-knocker represented a cowled and scholarly figure holding a book with a Latin inscription. It didn't seem appropriate for the front door, and my family has never been trained to the formality of inside door-knockers. They don't even rattle the door-handle. They just burst in. So after consideration I decided it would make a splendid Christmas present for Miss A., who has a passionate sense of privacy and a great fancy for bright brass ornaments.

Miss A. telephoned me the day after Christmas.

"THANKS so much for the lovely door-knocker," she said. "Who is it supposed to represent?"

"Erasmus, I imagine," I said, "I hope you have a door for it."

"Only the bathroom door," Miss A. said, "and I can't quite imagine hanging Erasmus on the bathroom door."

There was a pause. "Well, you might use it to shy at pigeons," I said.

"Or at cats," Miss A. said with a pleasant laugh, then added quickly, "However it is a very thoughtful gift and I want you to know I appreciate it."

A Christmas or two later another heavy parcel arrived from Saskatchewan. "For Heaven's sake!" I cried on opening it, "Why does Emily keep on sending me door-knockers!" Then I realized with a faint shock that this wasn't just another door-knocker. It was the original Erasmus.

It wasn't difficult to figure out what had happened. Miss A. had thriftily sent Erasmus on to Emily who had indignantly returned him to me, as a rebuke to the pragmatic and ungenerous spirit of the East. I telephoned Miss A. at once. "Come on over, I've got something funny to show you."

MISS A., however, didn't think it funny. She thought it a deplorable betrayal of the Christmas spirit.

"I'd never have sent it if I thought she wouldn't appreciate it," she said indignantly. "It was exactly the gift for Emily. She's always been crazy about brass things — remember that brass menagerie she kept on the window-ledge, and the brass warming-pan in the front hall? Besides she's the door-knocker type."

I shook my head. "You can't tell about the door-knocker type," I said, "I thought you were the door-knocker type when I sent it on to you."

Miss A. stared at me curiously a moment. Then she said, "If it's permissible to ask, who gave it to you before you sent it on to me?"

"Why, Emily," I said.

"THIS is preposterous," Miss A. said, sitting down.

"On the contrary, the whole thing follows a severe and beautiful logic," I pointed out. "Erasmus would have appreciated it. In fact it couldn't have happened to a better door-knocker."

Miss A. still looked flushed and indignant. "In any case I feel that I come out of it more creditably than you do," she said after a moment. "You gave it to me because you wanted to get rid of it. I sent it to Emily because I thought she would enjoy and appreciate it."

"You mean you really wanted Erasmus for yourself?" I asked.

"Certainly I wanted it for myself," Miss A. said.

"In that case I'll gladly let you have him," I said.

"What for?" Miss A. asked, caught off-balance.

"For Christmas," I said.

"I MEAN, what will I do with it?" Miss A. asked blankly.

"Why, send it to Emily," I said, "for Christmas."

"I'll do nothing of the sort," Miss A. said coldly. "The whole thing has gone far enough."

"Why, it hasn't even started!" I said, "I don't see why we shouldn't organize a Circulating Christmas Gift Club and lay up a stock of things that make lovely looking Christmas gifts that nobody wants. Things like embroidered finger towels, and combing jackets and petitpoint needle cases and china cat doorstops with bow-ties—"

"If you want to desecrate the very spirit of Christmas," Miss A. said.

"It wouldn't desecrate it," I said, "it would merely streamline it. You would have all the joy of giving and receiving and none of the expense, all the fun of wrapping and sending and none of the worry of shopping. It would solve the whole Christmas problem."

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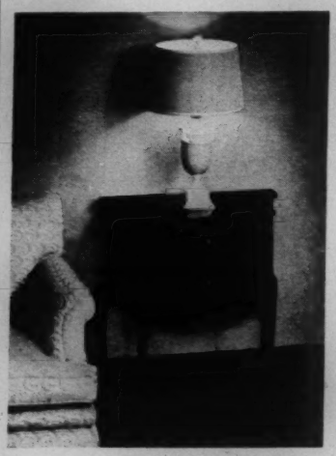

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FOOD:

Smorgasbord

OUTSIDE of knowing you will probably serve turkey soup and turkey a la something the week following the 25th, your mind is a blank. However, someone is bound to suggest having a few congenial souls in for New Year's Eve. You know that you're in for it again.

Buffet style or smorgasbord service has merit. Here is a menu you can elaborate upon or simplify:

Pickled Rosebud Beets with Onion Rings
Pickled Herrings, Radish Roses
Olives Gherkins
Chilled Shrimp or Prawn with Cocktail Sauce
Devilled Eggs
Swedish Meat Balls
Baked Kidney Beans or Curried Rice
Glazed Whole Baked Ham
Bowl of Potato Salad
Cranberry Sauce
Buttered Rye Bread
Pineapple-Grape Jelly Mould with Orange Dressing
Cheese Tray Rye Krisp Bread
Hot Punch

Cocktail Sauce

2/3 cup catchup
¼ cup chili sauce
2 tbsp. horseradish sauce
3 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
Tabasco sauce

Combine all ingredients and chill thoroughly. Serve with fish or shellfish. Makes 1 cup, or enough for 8 servings.

Swedish Meat Balls

Soak 1 cup fine dried bread crumbs in 1 cup rich milk or cream. Add—
1 lb. finely minced lean beef
1/3 cup minced onion
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
½ tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. cornstarch
1 egg beaten

Combine thoroughly. Shape into tiny balls and brown in ¼ cup hot fat a few at a time. Make the following sauce by stirring 3 tbsp. flour into fat remaining after browning the meat balls. Add 2 cups hot water plus 2 bouillon cubes (or 2 cups canned consommé) and 1 cup red table wine. Cook stirring until thickened and smooth. Place meat balls in sauce and simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Yield: 8 servings.

Curried Rice

Brown 2 cups raw rice in ¼ cup salad oil stirring frequently. Add 3 tsp. salt, ½-1 tbsp. curry powder (depending upon strength of powder), 2 tbsp. minced onion and 4 cups boiling water. Place in 2 qt. casserole and bake covered in 400° F oven for 30 minutes. Yield: 8 servings.

Pineapple-Grape Jelly

Drain 1 No. 2 tin crushed pineapple. Measure and add water to syrup to make 2 cups. Heat and dissolve 1 package lime jelly powder in it. Add 1 tbsp. lemon juice. Cool until syrupy. Pour in a thin layer of gelatin in oiled 8" ring mold. Arrange 2 cups seeded and halved grapes, rounded side down, in gelatine. Combine with remaining gelatine the crushed pineapple and 2 red skinned apples diced. Spoon this over the grapes and chill until firm. Unmould on plate and garnish with watercress. Fill centre with a dressing made as follows—

Combine 1 cup mayonnaise, ½ cup heavy cream whipped and 1½ tbsp. grated orange rind.

COLORFUL VARIETY *of Swedish buffet (smorgasbord) is effective, easy to do.*

Brain-Teaser:

Old Songs in a New Setting

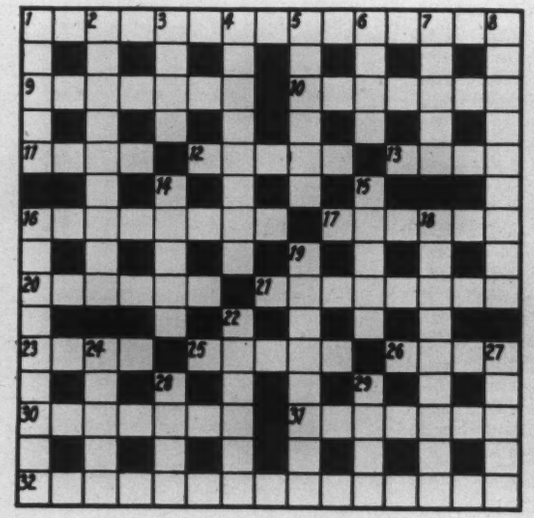
By Louis and Dorothy Crerar

ACROSS

1. Christ was born 18 in this little one. (4, 2,9)
9. Here's the gent with the ice. Origin-al, what! (7)
10. Crowd back to Shakespeare. (7)
11. Wind up the dance. (4)
12. Mary's joys were numbered. (5)
13. He pays court costs, as it were. (4)
16. No doubt he sang the tenor part of "We Three Kings". (closing with mixed choir). (8)
17. Ant with a split lip. (6)
20. Trygve's wife, perhaps, changes her name for a Canadian painter. (6)
21. Splitting where the lace gave. (8)
23. Guide of 16 across to the 1 across. (4)
25. "And . . . ed there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense". (5)
26. He wrote "The Christmas Oratorio". (4)
30. The type to stress. (7)
31. Gospel. (7)
32. Our greeting to you, not, in this case, for gentlemen only. (3, 4, 3, 5)

DOWN

1. The extra 14. (5)
2. Monarch who looked out for himself at this season. (9)
3. When overcoats afford no cover. (4)
4. Missed by a miss. (8)
5. A blest invention for groaning on Christmas Day under good 14. (6)
6. Watched by the shepherds. (4)
7. To to, to ho! (nauty, eh?) (5)
8. Tortoise, much ad-mired. (3-6)
14. See 5. (5)
15. Midnight was, when that glorious song came. (5)
16. Result of not interfering with a mole sting? (9)
18. See 1 across. (2, 1, 6)
19. Change, or let age bring out your other self. (5, 3)
22. For a compensation, movie extras spend a lot of their time here, perhaps. (6)
24. Judgement for a guardian? (5)
27. According to the carol, this bears the crown of all the trees in the wood. (5)
28. Farewell at Christmas? (4)
29. Quality of the Silent Night. (4)



Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Dog in the manger
8. Usurped
9. Nanaimo
11. Lumbago
12. Implied
13. Serpent
14. Hang-dog
15. Betting
19. Start up
22. Oversee
23. Also ran
24. Tethers
25. Lorelei
26. Lester B. Pearson

DOWN

1. Douglas Abbott
2. Glummer
3. No place
4. Hide-out
5. Mannish
6. Ninepin
7. Edified
10. Old age pension
16. Theatre
17. Inspect
18. Greaser
19. Scallop
20. Austria
21. Thrills (86)

NIGHT

Business Front

Transport Crisis Hastened By Truck-Train Clash

Four Conflicting Interests Must Be Reconciled By The Turgeon Commission.

by R. N. Beattie

THE APPOINTMENT a year ago of the Royal Commission on Transportation prompted a flood of words intended to enlighten us about the health and prospects of our transportation system. Governments, corporations and business associations have filed briefs, released publicity, and sent spokesmen to give evidence or cross-examine other witnesses before the Commission.

The men who speak for the CPR insist that its survival as a profitable private enterprise guarantees the future efficiency and economy of our whole transportation system. They are proud of Canadian Pacific's role in shaping our highly productive economy. They find little fault with the machinery that now regulates and makes rates for our railways. But they contend that we must let the machinery function more freely to set up rates that will make the railways financially secure and able to attract the capital needed to keep them abreast of the times with new, more efficient and more economical equipment. They oppose subsidies, special low rates for infant industries or isolated areas, and any increase in political control over transportation.

As for the CNR, its spokesmen agree that the railways must be enabled to earn a fair return on prudently invested capital. But they add that rates must bear equitably on different sections and industries. Furthermore, they hold that certain rail services ought to be maintained in the interests of national development and defence, even if they produce deficits. They would not oppose an extension of Federal planning and regulation aimed at allocating traffic with two principles in mind: 1. each transport medium should carry the traffic it can handle most efficiently; 2. railways deserve special consideration because their role is of prime importance.

While the two major railways thus differ somewhat in their approaches to the general problem, they apparently agree that the Royal Commission should recommend some means of protecting them from the growing competition of highway transport. The Railway Association of Canada has urged more regulation and higher taxation for freight-truck lines. Its brief contrasts the obligations enforced on the railways (to move staples at low rates, provide unlimited and often unprofitable service, charge uniform tolls, and maintain their rights-of-way) with the freedom enjoyed by highway carriers.

The Association believes that a close study of highway costs would show that trucks, both "for-hire" and privately operated, are not paying their fair share of the cost of building and maintaining the highways they use. If they did, they could not compete so "unfairly" with the railways.

Truckers' View

The Canadian Automotive Transportation Association, speaking for trucking firms from Quebec to BC, has filed a spirited refutation of the railway argument. The industry would show the Commission and the public that the highway truck is an indispensable factor in efficient and economical transportation.

The CATA brief points out that there were about 435,000 trucks in service in Canada last year, moving a ton or two of freight for every man, woman and child in Canada on half a million miles of highway. (That is ten times the length of our railway system.) About one in ten of these trucks are "for hire," or operated by public carriers. They far outnumber the trucks of all kinds registered in 1922. The trucking industry has grown steadily and rapidly because of the truck's versatility, adaptability and efficiency.

Restriction of the industry as advocated by railway spokesmen would not be in the public interest, the Association claims, because nobody can foresee either the hauling jobs of the future or the technical advances that may enlarge the truck's scope.

Moving household furniture between cities and long-distance hauling of new cars are cited as but two examples of special services performed by trucks far beyond the arbitrary "economic limit" of 50 miles suggested by some railway economists.

The Association fears that a policy of regulation and taxation aimed at diverting traffic from the highways to the railways would fail. Large shippers, barred from using public freight trucks, would buy their own. Thus the railways would derive no benefit, the for-hire truckers would suffer, and small shippers who cannot afford to operate their own trucks, would be at a great competitive disadvantage.

For these and other reasons, the CATA opposes the widely publicized view that restriction of trucks can cure railway ills. It claims that every shipper has an "inalienable right" to choose the kind of transport he wants. It recommends the Royal Commission and the railways to seek a cure elsewhere—perhaps through improving railway service.

Cut Costs

Possibly the railways could do more than they have done, and are doing, to speed up deliveries and cut costs. Certainly they have taken enormous strides forward since the early wood-burners crowded the stage-coaches from the picture. One of today's faster, stronger locomotives can do work that required two, 25 years ago. The real cost of hauling freight is now less than half of what it was two generations ago.

Suppose, however, that the railways are enabled to equip themselves with Trains of Tomorrow; or that they gain some protection from highway competition. The science of transportation is never static. The numbers of automobiles, buses and miles of highway increase steadily. The promise of Federal aid for a Trans-Canada Highway may preface a road-building program much larger than is now envisaged, for every district not on the route will press hard for a feeder or tap-line.

If we ever succeed in gaining the help of the United States to build the St. Lawrence Seaway, what would be the effect on railway traffic between the Lakehead and the seaboard?

The aircraft has disappointed air-minded people thus far as a large-scale carrier. But some still believe that "flying day-coaches" could capture a big share of passenger traffic and that "flying box-cars" seem much more practical in the light of the success of the Berlin Air-lift.

Another kind of transport looms large just now. Prairie oil will soon find its way to market by pipe-line to Lake Superior. A new 18 inch line will connect Portland and Montreal at a cost of $15 millions. An oil company official has remarked that the western pipe-line will not compete with the railways because it will be carrying freight which did not form-

—Imperial Oil

THE PIPELINE *is also a competitor.*

erly exist. Yet hauling western oil eastward would provide the railways with sorely needed revenue. And every gallon of oil that flows through a pipe to fuel a furnace is a scoop of coal less for a railway to haul.

The railways suffer from many disadvantages in the scramble for transport business. Their fixed charges are relatively high and rigid. Unlike highway, water and air carriers, they must maintain expensive roads in fixed locations. They cannot save time and handling-costs by picking up and delivering directly from door to door as the trucks can. Replacing out-moded equipment calls for enormous capital expenditures.

Yet the railways could better cope with these and like difficulties if the public could be convinced that there are sound economic reasons why freight rates should be high enough to place the railways in a secure financial position. The submissions made by some of the provinces and associations show a growing tendency to regard rates as a kind of taxation that

R. N. BEATTIE is a frequent contributor to SN on transport problems.

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By order of the Board.

L. O. REID,
Secretary.

Montreal, P.Q.,
December 12th, 1949.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

NOTICE is hereby given that an extra distribution of TWENTY CENTS per share on the paid-up Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared for the year ending 31st October 1949 and that the same will be payable at the Bank and its Branches on and after TUESDAY, the THIRD day of JANUARY 1950, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on 30th November, 1949. The Transfer Books will not be closed.

By Order of the Board

JAMES STEWART,
General Manager

Toronto, 18th November 1949.

In Canada's Leading Weekly
SATURDAY NIGHT
thought-provoking editorials
authoritative articles and reviews
news analysis

ought to be paid by those best able to pay rather than as tolls to be collected from shippers.

The railways seem to be the victims of a strange dualism in the public mind. Almost everybody wants them to stand on their own feet as business enterprises, but few seem prepared to grant them the right enjoyed by most public utilities to charge enough to cover costs plus a reasonable return on invested capital. CNR deficits have mounted rapidly since the war: 1946, $9 millions; 1947, $16 millions; 1948, $33½ millions; 1949, probably $38 millions. The CPR has paid dividends this year, but solely, it insists, out of non-rail revenues.

The crux of the transportation problem seems to be: can the railways attain financial security? The CPR believes it could, given higher rates and some regulation of highway transport. The CNR, because its heavy over-capitalization and its obligations to operate thin-traffic lines in the national interest, is not so sure.

The publicly-owned railways in Britain, where road-transport has also been nationalized, are unable to avoid deficits. In the United States, net income of the railroads has fallen sharply this year, despite rate increases. If foreign trade continues to contract, the railways of all three countries will surely suffer.

Does this mean that the railway must become something like a highway or canal, supported by taxation, and used merely to transport those heavy, bulky cargoes of grain, timber and minerals that its competitors cannot conveniently carry?

Few Canadians want to answer yes

—Malak

CAN CNR *chief Donald Gordon point out a solution for the railways?*

to this question. Donald Gordon, the dynamic President of CNR and railway personality of the year, has a reputation for making his fellow citizens face up to the realities of economic crises. Perhaps he can arouse public support for a transportation policy that will strengthen the railways without unduly confining other kinds of transport.

U.K. business

Finance:

STERLING DEBTS

IMMEDIATELY after the Indian Finance Minister's statement, at the end of November, that he had received "satisfactory assurances" from the British Government in respect of

—Globe and Mail

PRESENT *sterling releases are not according to the plan of Lord Keynes.*

India's outstanding sterling balances, a persistent questioner in the British House of Commons extracted from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the information that all counter-claims against the holders of the sterling balances had been abandoned. It seems to be equally clear that no change in the policy of liberal releases is intended.

The problem has been taken up in earnest between the British and the Americans in Washington. It was in Washington four years ago, when Lord Keynes was negotiating the loan agreement for Britain, that proposals were first made for dealing with these wartime debts, then about £3,500 million. It was agreed that a substantial part of the total should be written off, much of the remainder should be funded for a long term, and only a relatively small annual amount should be released for current use.

In the ensuing four years Britain has increased her production and trade to the highest levels yet achieved but has conspicuously failed to regain economic stability. Despite this failure, she has been repaying these war debts to sterling creditors on a lavish scale, thereby aggravating the disequilibrium.

Figures acknowledged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer show releases of £156½ million for 1947, £267 million for 1948 (inflated, however, by the deal with Argentina), and as much as £206 million for nine months of 1949. Not only have negotiated releases been much larger than the financial experts envisaged in Washington in December 1945, but the agreed figures have been greatly exceeded in practice.

It is the opinion of banking authorities in London that this has been one of the worst-bungled affairs in post-war international finance.

It seems that Lord Keynes intended no annual releases at all from the old debts until that mystic year 1951, when Britain's recovery was supposed to be complete and repayment of the U.S. loan was (as it still is) to begin. The Washington loan failed in its purpose; Marshall aid followed. Releases from the sterling balances this year have been nearly two-thirds of the sterling equivalent of the dollars received by Britain under Marshall aid.

The story would have been very different, no doubt, had Keynes lived to carry out the general financial plan which he had already formulated when he went to Washington. If the Americans had an alternative plan (as is believed) which they deferred in favor of his, they failed to bring it forward after his death in 1946. The British Treasury drifted from one temporary agreement to another, never clarifying its policy.

But until just recently it has been taken for granted that the broad objective of the Washington Agreement on this point stood. Bargaining-power, admittedly, was being whittled away by the repayments. But surely, it was thought, at some stage the British Government would invite its creditors together and negotiate a general settlement, or else lodge individual counter-claims "for goods supplied and services rendered during the war" (to use the words of the motion before the House of Commons when the change in policy had become unobtrusively apparent).

Policy:

STERLING EXPORTS

IN THE MATTER of sterling debts, it seems that there are to be no negotiations between Britain and her creditors; only between Britain and the United States, to settle which shall bear the brunt of the burden.

It might seem that Britain's only interest was to shift as much of the burden as possible onto the United States. True, Britain has no desire to pay out more than she must to stabilize the Middle East and South-east Asia in the world strategy for "containing" Communism — which has been hitherto, perhaps, the main motive for releasing buying-power to Egypt and the Indian sub-continent, where the controversy on the sterling balances is focussed. But there is great potential long-term benefit in maintaining a hold on markets which might turn elsewhere for supplies if they lacked this special inducement; and this benefit is not being sacrificed willingly to America.

This is the predicament: to hold markets with goods which are needed to earn dollars, or to turn all efforts to the dollar markets and risk losing the "traditional" markets permanently.

According to financial opinion in London, no one — not the creditors themselves—can benefit if, from whatever motive, Britain ruins herself trying to repay these war debts rapidly and in full.

For the Tired Businessman

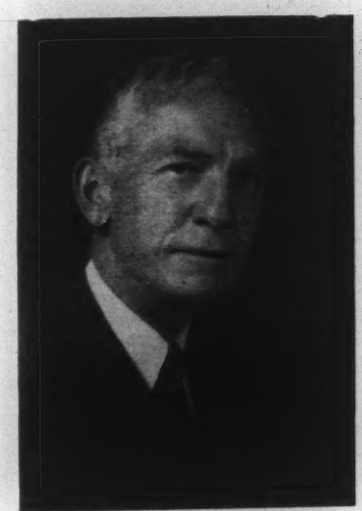
Insurance Company Head Likes To Golf, Sail, or Garden After Hard Day's Work

by Gordon McCaffrey

"SLOW DOWN and stop worrying," the doctors say. "Try to be the boss of your jobs—not the slave of them."

Going to work in the morning, walking to the lunchroom or club at noon, and driving home at night, you see so many "tired businessmen" who always have that worn, weary Monday morning look. The reason, say the doctors again, is that they stuff their business troubles in their brief cases and tote them home at night, or they go out to lunch and do more business talking than eating. Others put off vacations because they're "indispensable" and procrastinate on that after-dinner hobby.

Last week a man with all the composure in the world came into our office. Worrying about business matters seemed farthest from his mind. Phlegmatic and mild-tempered, he has a headstart on the hustler, because he never gets ruffled or unduly excited.



—Kaiden-Kazanjian

CHARLES VAN ANDEN

But he had some advice for those who suffer from high blood pressure and stomach ulcers.

Charles Reginald Van Anden, Vice-President of the real estate and mortgage loan department, New York Life Insurance Company, has worked out a nice balance between business and pleasure. As manager of a department handling several millions of dollars in mortgage investment, he finds the secret to business success lies in relaxation after office hours.

"I play terrible golf, but I love the game. I like it for its sociability, but I refuse to take it seriously. A lot of men go out for an afternoon's golf and come back to the clubhouse all tied up in knots. I like to play with golfers who just go out for the fun, the exercise and the fresh air.

"In the summertime it's a toss-up between golf and sailing. Either you like sailing or you don't! You don't have to be a good sailor, or have a big boat.

"I have a Lightning Class, centre-board boat—you know, about five feet longer than the racing dinghy. I take my wife and children out on the Hudson River and spend the afternoon. I like the challenge that sailing gives — it's a fight all the time. You have to watch for a squall or a sudden shift in the wind. You never know what's going to happen next on some days."

During the week Van Anden spends as much time as possible in his garden at home in Scarsdale, 20 miles from New York. "I like to put on old clothes and get my hands into the dirt. Perhaps the most peaceful place in the world is the middle of a garden patch, especially one you've had a lot to do with. After a hot day in the city, it's like a million dollars to feel the change. It's like a bath, the way it refreshes you."

In the morning he catches the 7.50 train of the Harlem Division of the New York Central and walks from Grand Central Station to his office, about 20 minutes walk. "I like to avoid the subway crowds. And this way you don't have to hurry."

No Worrying

As a manager of the mortgage department of New York Life, Van Anden has just the right temperament. Contemplative and deliberate, he would have no difficulty in making a complete and thorough appraisal of a client or his property.

"Before we make a loan, we check up on the neighborhood, the construction of the building, the number of rooms, the ventilation, the water-drains, and the insulation. Then we want to know something about the owner's income, his job, and number of his dependents. And we have to know something about the neighborhood, the marketability and rental value of the building, and so on."

While he has been with the New York Life, the Company has provided mortgage loans for enough houses to shelter the entire population of both Halifax and Vancouver. Only five million dollars of these loans are invested in Canada; now the Company is interested in expanding here.

With 90 million dollars already invested in Canada, New York Life has commissioned Van Anden to investigate the possibilities for doing more business here. "We have no doubts about the future of your country. We've been doing business here since 1868. We're familiar with the great economic developments since Confederation and we see potentialities for untold growth and progress."

If any large-scale investment is forthcoming, Van Anden will probably be in charge. "I like the security of a big company," he says. "There's a price you pay for everything, but I wouldn't change. For one thing, there's no worrying."

business angle

Harsh Facts from Britain

ACCORDING to statements by some left-wing British M.P.'s and others, Canada is maintaining her high standard of living partly at Britain's expense, not cooperating to relieve the world exchange crisis and not carrying her share of the Western defence burden. These people say that other Commonwealth members, notably Australia and New Zealand, have taken their full share of cuts and restrictions and made greater defence contributions than Canada. They suggest that if Britain stops buying from Canada it will teach Canada a needed lesson, that in fact Canada cannot get along without the British market, and that Canada ought to be willing to accept inconvertible pounds for her exports as a means of promoting the economic restoration of Britain, for Canada's sake as well as Britain's.

The attitude of these particular people is not a kind one, but before we get mad about it we might well stop to consider that actually there is some truth in it, especially in respect of our tightness in spending for defence (the smallest percentage of national income of any Western power).

And they have support for their beliefs. Many reasonable and well-informed Britons, who give Canada full credit for her wartime and postwar aid to Britain, are convinced that Canadian food products are too high-priced for British buying under present conditions, that no British Government, Labor or Conservative, could continue to pay the full price in dollars as it simply would not have them, that Canada's insistence on dollars from Britain is due to her own serious dollar-gap, and that just as Britain must reduce or eliminate her dollar-gap, so must Canada. The way for Canada to do this is to sell more to the United States, buy less from the United States, buy more from Britain.

Howe and Abbott Agree

THIS is a logical and not necessarily painful course, and one fully endorsed by our Mr. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Abbott, Minister of Finance. There is a lot of Canadian purchasing, particularly of industrial equipment, that could be just as well given to Britain; it would go a long way, perhaps even the whole way, towards correcting the present unbalance. But Mr. Gardiner, our Minister of Agriculture, chooses to believe that the British Government is engaged in a deliberate campaign to drive Canadian goods out of the British market. He does not explain why this is so, much less how it can be so in view of the fact that Britain is currently trying to sell more of her goods to us, and wants us to be able to buy and pay for them. Occasionally one hears other Canadians make charges against Britain like Mr. Gardiner's, with no more evidence of foundation.

"Unfair and Foolish"

SIR Stafford Cripps said recently: "Some very unfair and foolish things have been written lately about economic relations between Britain and Canada . . . Let me make this abundantly clear—however great have been our economic difficulties and those of Canada during and since the war, we have had no better friends than the people of Canada during that period . . . We utterly repudiate those who are—whether they mean it or not—creating bad blood between the two peoples." He was referring, of course, to the anti-Canadian Britons mentioned at the beginning of this piece.

Our Mr. Abbott, in a recent speech in Toronto, said that by her "valiant efforts" Britain had achieved in a few years a noteworthy recovery in her production and export trade. But this had not been paralleled by the achievement of a better balance of trade with North America. Britain's immediate post-war problem, he said, was one of restoring production; today it was particularly one of increasing sales in dollar markets.

The Governments of Canada, the United States and Britain had agreed, at the trade discussions held in London last July and in Washington in September, that this trade unbalance must not be allowed to lead to a breakdown in the trade relations of the dollar and sterling areas. To prevent such a breakdown, the United States and Canada must accept much larger imports from the sterling area and other soft-currency countries. This involved removal of obstacles wherever possible and refraining from taking measures to prevent the deficit countries from earning more dollars. Mr. Howe has expressed similar views.

It is evident that on both sides of the ocean there is agreement, at informed top-government levels, on the ends sought and on the mutual honesty of intentions. This is the best possible basis on which to approach the new difficulties in trade between Canada and Britain.

by

P. M. Richards

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By Order of the Board.
FRED HUNT, F.C.I.S.,
Secretary.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

DIVIDEND No. 252

NOTICE is hereby given that a DIVIDEND OF TWENTY CENTS per share on the paid-up Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared for the quarter ending 31st January 1950 and that the same will be payable at the Bank and its Branches on and after WEDNESDAY, the FIRST day of FEBRUARY 1950, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on 31st December 1949. The Transfer Books will not be closed.

By Order of the Board,
JAMES STEWART,
General Manager.

Toronto, 16th December, 1949.

Canadian business

THE ECONOMY

CANADIAN business reaches the end of 1949 on a more than ordinarily uncertain note. Overall figures for the year, when completed, will undoubtedly compare very favorably with those of preceding years. Christmas trade was good, apparently well up to the high level of 1948, though shoppers were noticeably more exacting on price and quality. Employment during most of the year had stood at a new peak, though for two or three months before the year-end local spots of unemployment had been appearing as a result of cuts in purchasing by the dollar-short soft-currency countries.

Last week the prospect suddenly darkened. Britain's food contract negotiators declined to renew the contracts for 1950; Britain lacked dollars to pay with and furthermore could buy more advantageously in soft-currency markets where pounds could be exchanged without penalty. The fact was that the currency devaluations of last September had in effect raised prices of Canadian products to an uncompetitive level.

All Canadian food products were hit, and Canadian farm representatives at once raised a cry for a government-subsidized farm program to tide them over the transition from contract sales to free trade. Minister of Agriculture Gardiner officially frowned on the proposal, but the fact that precedents had already been established in coarse grains, potatoes, apples and butter suggested that something would be done. Existing authorization for price supports expires on March 31, but at the closing of the session there was a resolution on the order paper for its renewal, which will be introduced at the next session.

Food production is so big a part of the Canadian economy that if large surpluses develop and remain unsold, the impact on every section of the economy will be sharp. However, this situation cannot actually arise until the 1950 crops are in, and we have this period of grace in which to try to build up other markets and to hope that Britain may be able to change her position. Or perhaps to decide on some bold course such as a further devaluation of our dollar, plus some price-cutting on exports to help make them competitive.

Trade:

FIRST RESULTS

DOMINION Bureau of Statistics' release of external trade figures for October showed that Canadian exports to the U.S. had increased by nearly $34½ million during the month—devaluation had made Canadian products cheaper in the U.S. and sales had gone up by more than enough to compensate for the smaller amount of U.S. money realised for each unit sold. Devaluation had also made U.S. goods more expensive in Canada and the volume of U.S. goods sold here had fallen.

But that was only one side of the picture. In the first place it was noted that October is a seasonal high for Canadian exports to the U.S., and in the second place was the fact that, though Canadians imported less from the U.S. during the month, the *value* of the imports actually increased—by 9½ million—over the September figure.

That was the bad news. It meant that, because of devaluation of the Canadian dollar, Canadians were getting less and paying more for it. It indicated that the Canadian demand for U.S. products did not slacken off as prices increased. This fact, and the one that the increase in exports was substantially due to seasonal factors, suggested that devaluation of Canadian money in terms of American was just as likely to worsen the country's U.S. dollar position as it was to better it. This was one of the dangers of devaluation suggested during the controversy on sterling last summer (SN June 28).

For the U.K. the picture was not any brighter. In spite of the fact that a devalued sterling had made British goods cheaper in Canada and Canadian goods more expensive in Britain, the value of Canadian sales in the U.K. had increased (by $15½ million) and British sales in Canada had decreased (by $2½ million).

Insurance:

TWO FUNCTIONS

EVER increasing sales of life insurance in Canada indicate that all the time more and more people are becoming concerned about the financial security of themselves and their dependents in the years that lie ahead. And they also show that, instead of depending upon the coming of the welfare state of the socialists to provide the security for them, they are convinced that if they want to be sure, they themselves must make what provision they can for the future during the earning period of life.

They have been persuaded, perhaps after considering other plans, that life insurance offers the easiest, safest and cheapest way to accomplish what they want to do.

Life insurance performs two functions in the economy of the country the importance of which is not as well recognized as it should be. First it acts as a collector, accumulator, conservator and distributor of the savings of the people, and to the extent that it thus enables individuals to provide their own financial security the state and charitable organizations are relieved of the burden which otherwise would fall on them. Secondly, it is a primary source of capital funds, as the policyholders' savings are invested in securities which will earn the highest return consistent with safety and at the same time strengthen the country's economy.

After all, the only way to economic progress is through saving and sound investment.

—George Gilbert

Their World is the Oyster

"Oysters," They Say, "Is Quite A Fish"—Ask Any Prince Edward Island Fisherman.

by Jimmy Coulter

THIS looks like a banner year for Prince Edward Island oystermen with the biggest dollar production season in history.

In November the oyster harvest was at its height. Any day now the weather may drive the oyster-farmers from the cultivated beds which produce some 60 per cent of the Island crop. On the public or natural fishing grounds the season closed on November 25.

Records were set last year when the dollar embargo kept the American shucked oysters off the Canadian market. Although the Americans are back in the cheaper market again this year, the Islanders are harvesting more of their top-grade sea-food than ever before.

—NFB

FROM SEA: *Tongs scoop them up.*

Prince Edward Island claims the only planned fish farming area in Canada and the oldest commercial oyster fishing grounds in the Maritimes. These areas produce the biggest oysters and the biggest harvest. The industry has been fathered by and is supervised from the biological station at Ellerslie. A young army veteran, R. Reed Logie of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada is officer in charge.

Where the cold waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence take a great bite out of the north shore of the Island lie the ideal oyster grounds. In season, the waters are warm enough to foster the spawning and growing oysters, and cold enough to give them the height of flavor for which they are famous. A long string of sheltering sand-hills to the north protect the under-water farms in the wide, shallow, sandy-bottomed bays of Malpeque and Cascumpeque.

At the southern extremity of Malpeque Bay on Bentinck's Cove the three warehouses of Lorne Beaton, Brenton Clarke and Grant Travers handle most of the Island crop. Another couple of warehouses at Ellerslie serve the Cascumpeque Bay area.

Perhaps it's because there are no families at Bentinck's Cove that the local folk call it by the more optimistic and romantic name of Benedict's Cove. Huddled around the single wharf, the three little warehouses are surrounded by half-a-dozen neat shanties and trim piles of oyster farming gear. Out in the cove, little dories, the twenty-five foot, high-rigged "flats," and a power boat or two lie at anchor. The water in-shore bristles with stakes supporting the "sets" on which the young and growing oysters are suspended against the marauding starfish.

The low meadows around the cove rise to fertile farmlands, dotted with snug, tree-ringed homesteads. On the farms, gaily-colored tractors and steady teams are finishing up the fall plowing. On the roads, the Island's seed potatoes are rolling to the premium markets of the Americas. In the sky, flights of training planes rise, hover and fall, and to the east the Summerside station of the Royal Canadian Air Force drones in peaceful activity.

But the oystermen are watching the weather. A skiff of snow sifted over the bay during the night. But now the forecast is favorable.

"Why don't they want their oysters in the summertime when we could make a picnic out of the harvest?" growls little old Joe Jakes, watching the dorymen load their tongs and gear and push off for the oyster-beds miles out in the bay.

—NFB

TO MARKET: *Where top grades bring from $12.50 to $15.00 a barrel.*

Little Joachim Desrouches, as he was christened in nearby Miscouche chapel some seventy years ago, is famed as a grader. He is said to have graded as high as 35 barrels a day when he didn't have to clean off the clinging limpets that eventually make an oyster stink. Grading is the job of a specialist. Quickly and accurately the run of oysters must be sorted into the four commercial grades for government inspection. It makes a lot of difference to the shipper whether he gets the top "fancy" twenty-dollar-a-barrel grade or one of the lower and very much cheaper grades as low as the five-dollar-a barrel "substandards."

"Oysters is quite a fish," the graders boast gently as they wait around the barrel-stove in the chilly grading room for the day's crop to come in from the dories. "Mr. Logie says a she-oyster can lay half-a-billion eggs and if they all survive one hundred per cent, a pair of oysters could build a world eight times the size of ours in five years."

Man's Job

It's a man's job to harvest oysters from a bucketing dory, although the steel-toothed dragger behind a power-boat is coming into fashion. Great tongs, like a pair of large garden rakes coupled together scissors-fashion, are dropped overside from the dory. For the deepest water the tong-handles are as long as 18 feet. Spread, they are drawn together, scraping the oysters from their ocean bed. Hand over hand, with tong-handles vertical, the fisherman lifts his dripping catch to the surface. Debris and undersized oysters are tossed back and the marketable shell-fish taken into the dory.

Cleaned, graded, packed, and inspected, the five-year life of the oyster will soon end in the luxury markets across Canada. And this year's catch of nearly ten million cold, salty, Island oysters, heavy with meat and fresh out of their deep-cupped, symmetrical shells, cannot supply the demand.

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U.S. business

Transport:

JET AIRCRAFT

THE RAPID development of British and Canadian commercial jet transports is spurring into action American aircraft manufacturers. The industry's policy-makers went into a protracted huddle recently and emerged with a statement calling on the Government to take steps to protect U.S. leadership in air transportation.

The recent flights of Canadian and British turbine-powered planes have focused attention on the fact that no similar craft has been completed in the States.

The industry recommends that the Government embark upon a program of purchasing proto-types of advanced type aircraft and feels that such a program should be administered by an existing Government agency. They also ask that the sale of aircraft after the proto-types are developed should be facilitated by the Government. They call on Washington to make available to designers additional technical data on turbine civil aircraft and arrange for experimental operation turbine-powered military planes converted for cargo and mail use.

For months the industry had been torn between the desire to get action on Federal financing for jet planes and their distrust of development of such a program by Government bureaucrats.

Textiles:

U.K. COMPETITION

WOOL men here were set back on their heels recently by Lord Barnby, former head of the Federation of British Industries, when he warned them in a frank discussion of the inroads his industry expects to make in the American woolen market. When Great Britain catches up with her heavy backlog of orders, he asserted, U.S. manufacturers of wool goods will feel the first impact of competition based on devalued currency.

Textile makers in the States soon may be facing the same sort of thing that is happening in Canada. As Lord Barnby sees it, Britain is declaring economic war on Canada by shipping in goods that are manufactured at one-third the cost of Canadian labor. If the British Government is successful in recruiting additional labor for the export trades, he said, the wool industry will be able to supplement current production by multiple shift operation.

Marshall Plan aid, he said in an aside, has been a factor in keeping down industrial production in Great Britain. Many Britishers, he commented, would have preferred to get along without the European Recovery Program because it has enabled the Labor Government to maintain its drive for nationalization of industry.

Investment:

BANKERS MEET

NINE hundred investment bankers trekked to Florida earlier this month to hear their leaders harangue them on the state of the nation and to plan more aggressive merchandising tactics to spur dealings in common stocks.

The speakers generally took a dim view of such controversial subjects as Government financing and the unbalanced Federal budget. But they did give out one bit of cheery news for the motorists of the United States and Canada. The price of gasoline will be cheaper next spring, the bankers' oil and gas securities committee predicted.

The present size of gasoline inventories, when added to the seasonal build-up during the coming months, will bring "intense pressure" on the wholesale price structure by the time gasoline stocks reach their peak in the spring.

Over-production, the experts said, is the great problem. Importation of oil from the Near East is an "ever-present threat" and the impact of the new Canadian oil fields will be felt in the future. Alberta and Saskatchewan, the bankers were told, may eventually become among the largest areas in point of reserves in both North and South America. The briefing given the bankers on Canadian oil along with a favorable report by the Canadian Securities Committee seemed calculated to put them in a receptive mood for the vast amount of financing that inevitably follows close on the heels of a major oil strike.

—A. V. Roe

COMPETITOR: *U.K. and Canadian commercial jet transport got a head start.*

press

HIS GREATEST ALLY

MONTREAL'S vigorous anti-vice crusader, Pax Plante, believes in doing things in a big way. When he led the morality squad (in a siren-equipped Buick) on raids of gambling joints, he took the press photographers along. "Publicity," he used to say, "is my greatest ally."

A few months later, when he was fired as Deputy Police Director for alleged insubordination, he drafted a 500-page report to the City's Executive Committee. To deliver it to the City Fathers, he hired a messenger boy. Again, the press was waiting.

Last month, after an absence of a year and a half, 41-year-old Pacifique Plante was back in circulation. A sensational exposé of vice in Canada's biggest metropolis was forthcoming, it was whispered. In a press conference, Pax confirmed this. As a medium to make his charges known to the public, he picked *Le Devoir* (circulation 20,000), Montreal's nationalist daily and the watchdog of French Canadian morals.

In 50 daily articles, large advertisements said, Montrealers would learn startling things. When the first issue hit the stands on November 21, circulation jumped by 5,000. But last week, with more than half the story told, interest began to wane. Unless the remaining pieces held a surprise, Montrealers learned little they had not already known or suspected.

Vice, he said, cannot exist on a commercial scale without protection. Everyone agreed with him on that point. Not everyone, however, agreed with the subtle hint that it takes Pax Plante to battle the vice interests. Many, including Montreal's powerful City Executive Chairman J. O. Asselin, whom he attacked in his columns, thought Plante had been a "publicity seeker." A clean-up, they said, can be done more effectively by professional policemen. To back up their view they pointed to the fact that the city has been well "closed" for the past year.

In the newspaper stories, readers noticed one interesting point. Plante mentioned the names of four alleged lords of the underworld—Hector Cadieux, Arthur Davidson, Eddie Baker and Harry Davis. All had one thing in common: they were dead.

—Windsor Star

SHY MAN: *Lauriston was puzzled.*

ALL *of Plante's victims were dead.*

A HELPFUL CRITIC

IN CHATHAM a shy little man sat in silent bewilderment as praises were poured upon him as one of Canada's best known newspapermen. He was 72-year-old, but still dapper, Victor Lauriston, and he was being honored on his fiftieth anniversary as a newspaperman.

Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of Health and Welfare, was the guest speaker. Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Rt. Hon. L. S. St. Laurent sent messages of congratulations. Arthur Stringer, a lifetime friend, sent a poem in Lauriston's honor. Newspapermen were there from Toronto, Windsor, London and other points to pay him tribute. Chatham's civic leaders were present.

Lauriston started writing more than 50 years ago. He spent a number of years on the old *Chatham Planet* and on the *Chatham News* where he still is a staffer, covering police courts.

But, in between, he was a free-lance writer, contributing to many national and international journals. He wrote two novels, "Inglorious Milton" and "The Twenty-First Burr." He is an authority on Kent County and also has written a history of Lambton County. And he has written poetry.

Lauriston is more than one of Ontario's oldest and best-known writers. He is an institution in Chatham. For many years he served on the school board and long has been the moving force behind the Macaulay Club, a rather unusual gathering, where some 30 Chatham intellectuals indulge in debates on literary subjects; criticize each other's book reviews. Lauriston usually is the chief, and most helpful, critic.

In 1907 Lauriston had an offer to move from Chatham to a more remunerative job elsewhere. That was the turning point in his life. He decided to stay in Chatham, to contribute by his writing and in other ways, to his own community. There is no evidence, 42 years later, that he has regretted his decision.

MORE JUNK

WHEN Davie Fulton introduced Bill Nine in the House of Commons last October, it looked just like any other private member's bill. It would give him, and other back benchers, a chance to try their wings and possibly a mention in the local and national press. By the end of the session, the Bill had snowballed into one of the biggest debates of any; it was amended as Bill 10, better known as the Fulton Bill.

Passed in its revised form in the House, the Bill received a storm of protest from publishers and distributors. In Fulton's original draft, there was a big loop-hole: a dealer had *knowingly* to sell a magazine "which exclusively or substantially comprises matter depicting pictorially the commission of crimes, real or fictitious." Under the new legislation, ignorance was no excuse. At this point the publishers tried to stop the Bill in the Senate.

The prospect of two years in jail threw many of the 10,000 retail news dealers into panic. Every one of them was compelled to act as censor of the comic books (up to 175 titles) on his shelves. Unable or reluctant to make the fine distinction between "fun" comics and "crime" comics, the dealers began sweeping all of them off their displays and cancelled orders for new ones. The word that gave most trouble was *substantially:* Would comics like "Dick Tracy" come under the ban?

Panic

In an attempt to stem the panic, the publishers called a meeting. While not agreeing that crime comics have an injurious affect on the minds of many youthful readers, they hastened to draw up a list of 25 comic titles that might possibly come under the ban. They also decided that in future, all comic books will come under the scrutiny of a group of "qualified" persons.

Said W. E. Swinden, of Colonial Distributors Ltd., "Comic books as a form of entertainment are here to stay. The Government's amendment is not designed to eliminate comic books, but simply to do away with those types which it considers harmful. Crime comics comprise only 12 per cent of all the comic books printed in Canada."

While an American publishers' committee already censors all comic books for the American market, the Canadian Act may force a revision of policy and a new treatment of subject matter. The final result may be a "Johnson Office" for the comic book trade.

The ban did not come as a surprise to the publishers, many of whom have already shifted to "love" comics. While the demise of crime comics is generally welcomed, the dealers are not happy about the new ones. "More junk," says one Kitchener, Ont., storekeeper. "They'll have to step in and do something about them too."

More happy about the switch are the police magistrates across the country. They will not have to decide which are "crime" comics.

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Christmas is a time of words

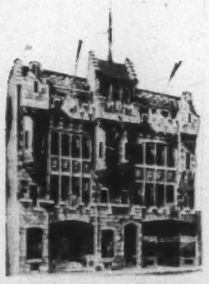
Among other things Christmas is a time of words.

There are words that wish us well, that praise,
that pay compliments and offer thanks for our many blessings.

And there are the words of the young — innocent words,
full of the wonder of the day; and still other words,
spoken over the vast spaces of a continent to waiting loved ones.

And there are words that are oft left unspoken,
words revealed only by a firm handclasp
or a trembling tear; and words too, that remind us
of seasons gone by and of those to come.

And always — as long as time itself — there will be
the familiar words: rich and splendid beyond compare,
words alive forever with warmth and sincerity,
and for which there is no substitute,
words that are the finest of all words at this time . . .
those words which say *Merry Christmas!*



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